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ASEAN Delegates Hold Meeting With U.S.

OW2206043091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 22 Jun 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, June 21 KYODO—The six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) voiced concern Friday about a potential shift of American investment from Asia to Mexico because of a North American free trade agreement.

"We registered our concern more on the investment side" than on external tariffs and other issues, said Vitthya Vejjajiva, the chief ASEAN delegate at an annual meeting with the United States.

"American capital might be diverted more to Mexico rather than to the ASEAN region," Vejjajiva, Thailand's permanent secretary for foreign affairs, said at a news conference at the end of the two-day meeting at the State Department.

Richard Solomon, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs and head of the U.S. delegation, said Washington assured ASEAN that a trade pact with Mexico and Canada would not discriminate against ASEAN or other countries.

"This is not an arrangement that will in any sense create new tariff barriers," he said at the news conference with Vejjajiva. "It's a way of creating a more dynamic market which should be to the benefit of the ASEAN countries as they seek larger export markets."

ASEAN is the United State's third largest export market after Canada and Japan. ASEAN members are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei.

Solomon and Vejjajiva said U.S. and ASEAN delegates also discussed Cambodia and the war on narcotics.

The narcotics issue, Vejjajiva said, "is kind of a reality that we have to live with."

A joint statement issued at the end of the 10th ASEAN-U.S. meeting Thursday and Friday said ASEAN "responded favorably" to a U.S. proposal to increase counternarcotics cooperation with ASEAN.

The statement said ASEAN will discuss the narcotics issue with its dialogue partners—the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community—at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The communique also said, "in fostering close ASEAN-U.S. partnership, ASEAN looks to the U.S. as a source of markets, capital and technology."

In the meeting, the U.S. and ASEAN also underscored the importance of "an early and successful conclusion" of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks.

"The meeting also agreed that both sides should continue to take a firm position on agriculture in the Uruguay round with a view to achieving a balanced package of results that will be meaningful and beneficial to all," the communique said.

The U.S. and ASEAN did not discuss ASEAN-Japan or Japan-U.S. relations. "No, that was not on the agenda. This was U.S.-ASEAN," Solomon said.

Vejjajiva said a Malaysian proposal for an East Asian Economic Grouping did not come up either. U.S. officials have expressed opposition to the idea.

President George Bush said in a letter to the ASEAN delegation, "the U.S. welcomes the commitment of the ASEAN nations to an open and free market trading system."

The U.S. and ASEAN will hold an inaugural meeting of the ASEAN- U.S. Trade and Investment Cooperation Committee to discuss the East Asian Economic Grouping and other pressing issues Monday and Tuesday in Washington, officials said.

Officials Prepare for ASEAN Ministers Meet

BK1607042291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0334 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Senior officials of ASEAN began their three-day meeting here Monday to prepare the groundwork for its Annual Ministerial Meeting [AMM] and Post- Ministerial Conference [PMC] with the seven dialogue partners of the regional grouping.

While the ASEAN Standing Committee dealt with the reports of the various committees of the regional grouping and its administration, the political officers considered the policy issues and directions of the organisation for their ministers.

The 24th ASEAN ministerial meeting begins on Friday with a break on Sunday before the grouping's foreign ministers meet with their dialogue counterparts on Monday.

The dialogue countries are Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the European Community, the United States, and South Korea, a sectoral partner which will be made a full dialogue partner.

A conference source said the senior officials were dealing with "significant issues" confronting the organisation in view of the radical changes taking place in the international political and economic situation.

"The question is how is ASEAN going to respond to these changes," he said, referring to the end of the cold war, East-West rapprochement, the opening of Eastern Europe, the end of the Gulf war, and the formation of single markets.

The source said the senior officials would present these "developments" to their foreign ministers who, in turn, would decide on the issues for policy decisions by their heads of government who are to hold their 4th summit in Singapore early next year.

"The ASEAN heads of government would have to decide on the future direction of ASEAN" in the face of the changing scenario, the source added.

The source said this AMM was also "significant" as China and the Soviet Union have been invited as guests of Malaysia for the opening ceremony and for separate informal meetings with the ASEAN foreign ministers.

Both Beijing and Moscow have indicated their desire to forge closer ties with ASEAN and informal discussions would be held to see what form they would take, he added.

"The question of dialogue status does not arise," he said, adding that the ASEAN dialogue with the present seven partners were "special" with a capital "D".

The source said the AMM would consider the paper prepared by the senior officials on the proposed East Asian Economic Group (EAEG). Although the EAEG was not in the agenda of the PMC, the subject was likely to be brought up during discussions on regional trends and developments.

"We will take the opportunity to brief the dialogue partners on the latest on the EAEG," he added.

The ASEAN foreign ministers would also look into the proposals to strengthen the structure and mechanism of the grouping's secretariat to make the organisation a more effective grouping in political and economic cooperation, the source said.

At its meeting in Jakarta in July, last year, the AMM appointed a panel of five eminent persons, headed by former Malaysian Foreign Minister Ghazali Shafie, to undertake the task.

The panel's work was to help the decision-makers of ASEAN to develop and implement options and modalities to improve the effectiveness of the secretariat as a body responsible for coordinating ASEAN activities.

Earlier reports indicated a revamp of the secretariat to one that is similar to the Commonwealth or that of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Ministers To Discuss SNC Envoys

BK1607081491 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] The ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting this week will discuss the regional organization's relationship and the accreditation of ambassadors to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], expected to be headquartered in Phnom Penh in November.

Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa said the latest development, particularly the success of the SNC, or the Supreme National Council of Cambodia meeting in Phatthaya, Thailand, and its implications for the future will be one highlight of the ministerial meeting. The ASEAN foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in Kuala Lumpur on this Friday and Saturday followed by a meeting with dialogue partner countries from 22 to 24 July.

The meeting will focus on the approach in establishing the relationship, especially the legalities with the SNC, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry said. The manner of the accrediting ambassadors will also be discussed, he added. We want to coordinate work with ASEAN but we would not accredit our ambassadors at the same time.

Reference to the Cambodian issue is expected to be prominent in the ministerial joint communique, usually issued at the end of the annual meeting.

The permanent secretary said Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin had already sent a detailed report on the success of the SNC meeting to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

The permanent secretary said the ministers are also expected to discuss the role of Japan in Cambodia as well as prospects of normalization of ties between the United States and Vietnam.

The Permanent Secretary, Witthaya Wetchachiwa, said Thailand is not opposed to Japan participating in a peacekeeping role in Cambodia as long as it is not counter to the United Nations' peace plan.

Thailand Pursues ASEAN Consensus on Trade Zone

BK1607015191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jul 91 p 1

[By Natthaya Chatchotirot, Boonsong Kasitchotthana]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Thailand is actively pursuing a consensus from five ASEAN members to establish an ambitious European Community-style "free trade zone" within the region by the turn of the century.

Thai officials yesterday began work here with their ASEAN counterparts to draft the general framework for the proposed regional economic cooperation which was raised by Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun during his discussions with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong last month.

The proposed "free trade zone" is part of the new intra-ASEAN economic cooperation aspect which senior ASEAN officials are trying to push forward through their respective foreign ministers who are to hold their annual meeting here on Friday, official sources said.

It will also become the boldest trade pact established by the 24-year-old group and will highlight the 3rd ASEAN summit scheduled for Singapore in January.

There is a strong feeling among ASEAN members that the existing trade preferential and investment schemes, though constantly improved, have done very little to boost trade volume within the region.

The initiative to create a "free trade zone", ideally where goods can be moved freely from one ASEAN country to another with minimum unified tariff, is nothing new, said sources.

But the word "free trade" had been avoided all along although its concept has been discussed at different ASEAN forums without any specific conclusion as officials concerned thought they should spend more time modifying and improving the existing mechanism.

It was only last month that Prime Minister Anan came out explicitly with such a term and urged other ASEAN countries to set the turn of the century, probably the year 2000, as the timeframe to achieve the ambitious goal of strengthening regional economic cooperation.

At the forthcoming meeting with his ASEAN counterparts here later this week, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin is expected to reiterate Mr Anan's vision that the time and economic conditions, both within ASEAN state and elsewhere in the world, are ripe for ASEAN to dare decide on the issue.

Thai officials suggested that gradual steps be taken from ASEAN's current economic cooperation towards achieving economic integration and finally the "free trade" concept.

"We cannot hurry to achieve the objective of free trade in such a short time. Look at the European Community, it took them many decades just entering the threshold," a senior Thai official noted.

The EC's Single Market takes full effect next year.

Thai officials said a broad or specific time-frame is needed to get the ASEAN's "free trade" concept going.

"We have to set a time for the objective and work towards that. Otherwise we will never get started," an official said.

Details of ASEAN's "free trade" concept remain sketchy. But official sources said it would initially start off with limited types of merchandise.

In fact, senior ASEAN officials have already agreed on three items which will come under the "common collective tariff" label whereby all ASEAN states will levy the same rate of import tariff for a product made by an ASEAN member country.

The initial list comprises fertiliser, cement and pulp/paper. The private sector of each ASEAN country has been advised to propose five items for consideration to add to the list.

Japan

Cambodia's Chea Sim Meets LDP Leaders

OW1507150691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1423 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Cambodian parliamentary leader Chea Sim told Japanese leaders Monday that Phnom Penh hopes to see peace in Cambodia through measures closely related to U.N.-proposed comprehensive peace plans and to establish a Supreme National Council (SNC) headquarters in November.

Meeting Yasuhiro Nakasone and Shin Kanemaru, ranking officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Chea Sim, now on a visit to Tokyo, said the Phnom Penh government and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk have made concessions.

He added the focal point now is how far the Khmer Rouge, the militarily strongest among the three resistance factions, would be willing to yield in any peace arrangement.

Chea Sim said it would be possible for Sihanouk to visit Hanoi in the near future.

Nakasone, a former prime minister, asked how Cambodia would respond to the involvement of U.N. peacekeeping activities, which would oversee a ceasefire in the nation's 12-year civil war and monitor free elections.

Chea Sim, indicating a positive stance on U.N. peacekeeping activities, said it is something he wants to see discussed by the SNC.

The influential member of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government was later hosted to a dinner by former LDP policy affairs research council chairman Michio Watanabe.

Asian Affairs Official Meets U.S.' Solomon

OW1607081191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—Top Asian affairs experts from the United States and Japan agreed Tuesday on the importance of the United Nations in bringing peace to Cambodia and called on resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to continue his leadership to resolve the 12-year civil war, Japanese officials said.

Richard Solomon, the U.S. State Department's assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, hailed Sihanouk's leadership in peace negotiations among the four warring Cambodian factions, the officials said. Faction leaders recently agreed that Sihanouk should chair meetings of the interim Supreme National Council [SNC].

But, Solomon said it will be necessary to see that the SNC can solve by itself the remaining issues hampering peace negotiations and called for the importance of the U.N. role in the talks.

Solomon expressed the views when he met with Japanese Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs Bureau Chief Sakutaro Tanino ahead of attending a meeting in Beijing of SNC members and representatives of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Tanino stressed the need to support Sihanouk and added the role of the United Nations will also be important, the officials said.

Officials Report Joint Approval of FSX Plan

OW1607081391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—Military experts from Japan and the United States will this week approve an estimated cost of 310 billion yen for the long-pending project to jointly develop Japan's next generation support fighter, code-named FSX, Defense Agency officials said Tuesday.

The total cost of 310 billion yen to develop six prototype aircraft is nearly double the original estimate of 165 billion yen made by Japan in fiscal 1985.

The officials attributed the surge in the development cost to rising prices and extraordinary expenditures for the acquisition of advanced technologies to be transferred from the United States to Japan.

Japan originally planned to develop the fighter on its own but later agreed on joint development under pressure from Washington.

Under memorandums exchanged between the two countries, U.S. companies will get 40 percent of the development work.

The estimated cost is for the development of six prototypes, based on the U.S. F-16 fighters produced by General Dynamics, by fiscal 1998.

The entire development cost is to be shouldered by Japan, the officials said.

The government has so far appropriated a total of 56.3 billion yen for the FSX project in fiscal budgets since 1988. The Defense Agency plans to seek an additional 83 billion yen in the fiscal 1992 budget, the officials said.

Work on the basic design began in the spring of last year, with development of the prototypes set to start in fiscal 1993, the officials said.

The Air Self-Defense Force plans to deploy a total of about 130 new fighters to replace the domestically built F-1 fighters currently in service.

Some 20 billion yen will be spent on the development of flight control systems because the United States refuses to transfer the technology for such systems, the officials said.

About 10 billion yen will be set aside for imports of six engines developed by General Dynamics Corp., they said.

The development budget will be approved at meetings to be held in Japan on Thursday and Friday by Defense Agency and U.S. Air Force officials in charge of the project, the officials said.

Okinawa Governor Interviewed on U.S. Visit

OW1607022791 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 14 Jul 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Masahide Ota, governor of Okinawa Prefecture, by an unidentified interviewer on his upcoming visit to the United States scheduled to begin on 19 July; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] [RYUKYU SHIMPO] I would like to once again ask you about what has made you decide on visiting the United States?

Governor Ota: Since after the war, an overwhelming majority of the prefectural residents have called persistently for building Okinawa into a peaceful prefecture that is devoid of military bases. In this connection, it is an indispensable task for me in my capacity as the person in charge of administration to visit the United States, which has set up military bases here, and directly give briefings on the actual situation in Okinawa to win their understanding in reducing and withdrawing military bases.

First of all, they have to be informed of the actual situation here. Then, I would like to see how great a chance we have in seeking effective measures to settle this problem. In this connection, I would like to meet in person and hold direct talks with many concerned people to sound out the possibility of setting up an office of the prefectural government in Washington.

The base-related problem is not an issue that can be settled in a short time. To have the issue settled in concrete terms, it will be necessary to appeal repeatedly that this is the aspiration and demand of all the residents in our prefecture.

[RYUKYU SHIMPO] Over seven months have elapsed since you became governor. Why have you decided to visit the United States particularly at this point in time?

Governor Ota: Originally, I wanted to visit the United States immediately after my inauguation as governor because I wanted to explain the significance of the start of a new prefectural administration, and properly explain the reasons we advocated the reduction or withdrawal of military bases, why this issue became a controversial issue during the gubernatorial election, and also why the prefectural residents voted in favor of us, the new administration. However, because of various problems, such as preparations for a draft budget and the Gulf war, my visit has been postponed until today.

It is true that since the start of our new administration, many problems have remained to be settled. It will take time to settle the issue concerning the withdrawal, readjustment, or reduction of military bases. If we should fail to express our intention frankly as soon as possible to win their understanding, the settlement of the issue will be postponed. Therefore, while taking many other problems into consideration, I ventured to make the decision on visiting the United States at this juncture.

[RYUKYU SHIMPO] During your visit to the United States, what points in particular do you plan to stress in your briefings to U.S. Government organs?

Governor Ota: The former governor also paid visits to the United States to appeal clearly for readjusting and reducing military bases. However, many bases that the Consultative Committee on Japan-U.S. Security has agreed to return have not been returned yet. I would like to remind them that they should put into effect at least the decision that has already been made. I would also like to ascertain where the bottleneck lies, and whether the United States should be held responsible for the delay in returning these bases.

As for procedures for returnig military bases, I would like to make an appeal that a plan for the package return of bases should be worked out so that there will be sufficient time for preparations to make good use of the returned land lots. Furthermore, in connection with Okinawa's future, I would like to appeal to the United States, with the help of visual aids and other measures, that the presence of U.S. military bases not only hampers the development of the local economy but also of education and social life.

[RYUKYU SHIMPO] The itinerary of your U.S. visit indicates that you will be meeting or holding consultations with many people connected with either mass media or the U.S. Congress.

Governor Ota: Because the United States is said to be a nation of public opinion, politics is moved by public opinion. When the standpoint of the government that has signed the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is taken into account, it is understandable why Okinawa has been asked to suffer from and make sacrifices for the sake of this treaty. Still, we feel worried because Okinawa's position as a minority has always been ignored because of interests of the nation as a whole. However, it actually has been voiced among U.S. citizens of good sense that reconsideration should be given to the fact that a disadvantage always has been given unilaterally to a certain minority. My understanding is that we should appeal to those people who have expressed such a view. In this sense, we would attach importance to our meetings with the mass media and Congress, and appeal to them by every possible means.

[RYUKYU SHIMPO] We would like to hear your view on the upcoming visit to the United States.

Governor Ota: In this age of internationalization, there are cases in which a head of a local self-governing body should appeal to foreign nations. There is a trend of such changes in the world. Take Hokkaido as an example. Despite the general opposition against the Soviet Union among the Japanese people, Hokkaido residents have established close friendly relations with the Soviet Union, and have engaged in fishery cooperation while further promoting friendly relations. In the same way, the Okinawa Prefectural Government also differs in its view with the Japanese Government. We would like to stress that Okinawan residents gradually are passing beyong the limit of our patience now.

However, I do not think that my upcoming visit to the United States will bring about immediate results. However, I would like to make the same appeal even hundreds of times, if necessary.

Further on Spokesman's Comments on Peru

OW1507160691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Foreign Ministry sources later Monday affirmed Tokyo's continued economic support for the Fujimori government, saying any reduction in that support would be "exactly what the ultraleftists had intended."

However, the government and JICA [Japan International Cooperation Agency] will reconsider the dispatch of Japanese specialists to areas threatened by terrorist activities, the sources said.

Tokyo will ask the Peruvian Government to take measures to guarantee the safety of Japanese nationals living there, they said.

Secretary Condemns Murder of Translator

OW1607111891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto on Tuesday condemned the murder of the Japanese translator of Salman Rushdie's controversial novel, "The Satanic Verses," but said he sees no need for Japan to protest Iran's death sentence against the author.

Sakamoto said the murder of Tsukuba University Assistant Prof. Hitoshi Igarashi last Friday was "unfortunate from the point of view of human rights."

But he was equivocal when asked whether Japan would appeal to Iranian authorities to lift the death sentence imposed by the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni when the book was published in 1989.

Rushdie's novel about two Indian immigrants who are misfits in both British and Indian society has drawn the ire of Muslims who believe the work insults the prophet Mohammed.

In a statement issued from a secret location last week, the Indian-born author urged the governments of Japan and Italy to ask for clemency on his behalf.

Sakamoto told the news conference, however, that the call for Rushdie's death is "too obviously outrageous" to merit a protest.

"In this age of freedom of thought and expression it is impermissible in the civilized world to issue a death sentence because one dislikes a work of literature," Sakamoto said.

Police are investigating whether there is connection between Igarashi's murder and a similar attack July 3 in Milan in which Ettore Capriolo, the Italian translator of the work, was seriously injured.

Banker Remarks on Financial Aid to USSR

OW1607141991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—A top Japanese banker said Tuesday banks should prepare for sudden suspensions of interbank trading by settling such deals the day they are made, rather than the current overnight settlement method.

Kenichi Suematsu, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, told a press conference that the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has had little impact on settlements of interbank deals in foreign exchange and bills.

But that is because the closure of the Luxembourg-based BCCI took place over a weekend, Suematsu said.

An international group of regulators led by the Bank of England closed BCCI branches around the world on July 5 for the BCCI's alleged involvement in money laundering and fraud.

Suematsu, president of Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, also said that the Soviet Union is "not ready for direct financial aid." But he voiced support for providing technical assistance and aid for foodstuffs "to prevent the collapse of Soviet society."

Soviet aid is a major issue facing leaders from seven major industrial powers who are holding their annual economic summit in London.

Suematsu said banks must pay due attention to the risk of a sudden payment difficulty facing their business partners.

Asked to comment on the fact that foreign banks operating in Japan are not subject to the nation's deposit insurance program, Suematsu said no foreign banks are now asking to join the program.

If a foreign bank wished to join the insurance program, it would have to pay related costs to keep the Japanese banking system sound, he added.

Suematsu also welcomed Monday's announcement of a merger between Chemical Banking Corp. and Manufacturers Hanover Corp., two U.S. money-center banks.

The proposed merger "will create a strong bank that is expected to develop business in a strategic manner," he said. The merger would be the largest in U.S. banking history, creating America's second-largest banking company.

LDP, Opposition Agree on Extra Diet Session

OW1407093391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Florence, Italy, July 13 KYODO—The secretaries general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and three opposition parties Saturday agreed to call an extraordinary Diet session in early August to discuss a package of political reform bills.

They reached the agreement during an informal meeting in a hotel in Florence, Italy, where they are staying on a nine-day tour to study European contributions to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

In the meeting, LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi proposed convening the Diet in early August to discuss the political reform measures.

The secretaries general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest opposition group, and two centrist opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Social Party (DSP) agreed on the timing for the special session.

They all, however, expressed opposition to the reform package proposed by the government and pledged to scrap it in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors.

The package's three bills would overhaul the nation's electoral system to create single-seat constituencies in the House of Representatives, tighten controls on political funds, and provide subsidies to political parties.

The bills have drawn strong criticism even from many LDP members, who fear losing their seats in the powerful lower house if the reforms are implemented.

The opposition demanded that recent scandals involving Japan's big four brokerage houses and relief measures to volcano-stricken Shimabara in Nagasaki Prefecture also be discussed in the session.

Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the DSP, proposed setting up an ad hoc committee in the Diet to investigate the securities houses' practice of compensating big corporate clients for their investment losses.

Obuchi promised his opposition counterparts that the problem would be seriously addressed.

Session Proposed for 5 Aug

OW1607131091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] on Tuesday proposed to convene an extraordinary session of the Diet on August 5 to confront a crowded agenda, including measures to deal with the Mt. Unzen disaster and the recent securities scandal.

Seiroku Kajiyama, head of the LDP Diet Affairs Committee, received approval from Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Parties.

The leading opposition Social Democratic Party [SDP] said it would formally reply on Friday after Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi returns from an overseas tour, but the party is expected to agree to the session.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has vowed to put the LDP's political reform package on the agenda, but Kajiyama and the chairmen of the other parties' Diet affairs committees put off a decision on the issue until another meeting next Tuesday.

Kaifu has said he is "staking his political life" on the package, which the ruling party says would clean up politics and the opposition charges would perpetuate the LDP's rule.

The party representatives agreed that Diet resolutions are needed to promote relief efforts for the embattled Mt. Unzen area, which has suffered pyroclastic flows and volcanic tremors nearly daily since the end of May and still faces the danger of a larger-scale eruption.

Outlining a tentative Diet schedule for the session, Kajiyama proposed a policy speech from Kaifu and a report on Mt. Unzen from National Land Agency Director Mamoru Nishida on August 5.

Three days of questioning on the policy speech would follow August 7-9, Kajiyama suggested.

The legislators would take off August 10-18 for the bon [as received] holidays, returning August 19 for deliberations at the budget committee, he said.

Pressed by the opposition parties to create a committee to probe the securities scandal, in which Japan's largest brokerages have admitted paying unfair compensation to major clients, Kajiyama countered that the affair would be handled by the Diet's finance committee.

The SDP urged that deliberations on Mt. Unzen, the securities scandal, and the export of military goods take precedence in the session, while the DSP called for an early decision on a law to govern a Japanese contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Tanabe, Ueda Make SDP Election Speeches

OW1407125091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 14 KYODO—Tetsu Ueda, a candidate in the Social Democratic Party (SDP) chairmanship election, Sunday accused opponent Makoto Tanabe of trying to amend the war-renouncing Constitution to affiliate the party with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Party Vice Chairman Tanabe flatly denied Ueda's criticism, saying Japan's largest opposition party should pave the way for taking power from the LDP by going ahead with a party reform plan.

Tanabe and Ueda made heated remarks in 30-minute speeches before about 120 party members at a Tokyo hotel.

The speeches were organized by the SDP's Election Control Committee a week before about 120,000 full and associate party members across the country vote for a successor to incumbent Chairwoman Takako Doi. The election will be July 21 and 22.

Doi submitted her resignation last month to take responsibility for the party's losses in spring elections.

Ueda, a House of Representatives member, said the party's draft reform plan is designed to virtually recognize the Self-Defense Force (SDF) as legitimate, which he said is illegal under the war- renouncing Constitution.

Tanabe, 69, led the SDP's reform committee in drafting its new basic policies on the SDF and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and submitted the plan late May to the Executive Central Committee.

The Executive Committee approved the draft plan, which will be presented at the July 30-31 extraordinary party convention to seek endorsement from party representatives.

Ueda, 63, a center-left politician, quoted the reform plan as saying that the SDP must "look straight at the existence of the SDF." The phrase would recognize the legality of the SDF and the government's year-on-year increase in fiscal defense budget, he said.

The draft plan says the party looks straight into the SDF and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and that it will work to make the treaty unnecessary. The draft also says the SDF should be reorganized so it can help U.N. peacekeeping activities and international disaster relief operations in the current move to promote disarmament.

Ueda said the party should initiate an Asian conference on disarmament to ensure Japan's security instead of recognizing the legality of the SDF and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

He said the SDP should take power from the LDP not by affiliating with the ruling party, but by gaining "1 million supporters" from the Japanese people.

Tanabe, a right-wing party member, rejected Ueda's views, saying the party should step up efforts to establish realistic policies to enable the party to survive in the 21st century.

The SDP should take a bold posture against the LDP with "confrontation" for one policy and "cooperation" for another, Tanabe said.

He said the party must break the stalemate in Japanese politics caused by the LDP's one-party rule. The SDP should make every effort to be "a party which is capable of being a ruling party to pave the way for setting up a system of two big parties in Japan."

Tanabe, also a House of Representatives member, said the SDF is unconstitutional, but he said "the party should look straight into political reality in order to defend the nonarmament policy stemming from the Constitution."

According to a survey released Sunday by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, 60 to 70 percent of party members eligible to vote in the election support Tanabe.

The survey, analyzed by the news agency following reports on the election from its branches across the country, said 30-40 percent of the voters back Ueda.

Ex-Im Bank Plans Foreign Investment Foundation

OW1307064491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 13 KYODO—The Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan plans to form a foundation this year designed to promote direct Japanese foreign investment, a source at the government-financed bank said Saturday.

The organization, tentatively called the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment (JIOI), will provide information necessary for direct foreign investment, ranging from taxation to employment, the source said.

The new institute will also sponsor seminars on foreign investment and accept trainees from foreign countries under the auspices of the Export-Import Bank, which has 16 overseas offices, the source noted.

The source said some 240 to 250 corporations such as trading houses, manufacturers, and financial institutions are expected to join the new institute, which will be founded with some 2 billion yen.

The scheme comes amid growing demands for Japanese direct investment, which would create job opportunities and promote transfers of technology sought by developing countries.

Such investment is also considered favorable to prevent trade imbalances and resolve the Third World debt problem, and is desperately sought by the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for their market-oriented reforms.

The Export-Import Bank will apply for Finance Ministry approval in November so that the new institute can start up by the end of December, the source said. Michio Takeuchi, former president of the bank, is slated to assume the chairmanship, the source added.

Daido Moves Into Aerospace, Electronic Fields

OW1507073091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Nagoya, July 15 KYODO—Daido Steel Co., the world's largest specialty steelmaker, has introduced a series of incentives to secure talented workers in a move to attain its 10-year goal of business expansion and sales growth.

The program calls for the company to expand into new businesses, including aerospace and electronics fields, and double its sales to 1 trillion yen by the year 2001.

The Nagoya-based company produces specialty and other steel products for sale mainly to automobile manufacturers. Its sales to automakers now account for nearly 60 percent of its annual total sales.

The company has introduced various incentives as a means to recruit talented workers, such as flexible working hours and low- interest housing loans for its employees.

For those who plan to return to their hometowns after retirement, the company offers low-interest loans to help them build houses there.

The company also offers a monthly subsidy of 100,000 yen to workers commuting to their workshops in the Tokyo Metropolitan area by the super-express Shinkansen train.

"We vitally need talented human resources to accomplish our goal of expanding our business, but unfortunately our company is not well known among college students, except those majoring in engineering," said a spokesman for the company.

The company recently produced a new TV commercial aimed at boosting its corporate image among college students.

Sanyo, U.S. Maker To Jointly Develop LSI

OW1507103791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. announced Monday that it has agreed with a Japanese unit of LSI Logic Corp. of the United States to jointly develop next-generation large scale integrated circuits (LSI) for high-definision television (HDTV) sets.

This is the first time that a Japanese consumer electronics maker has undertaken a joint venture on HDTV-related products with a foreign semiconductor manufacturer.

HDTV, which broadcasts compressed pictures using radio waves, needs receivers with decoders to amplify the pictures.

Osaka-based Sanyo and Tokyo-based LSI Logic K.K. will develop advanced LSI's for decoders to be launched late next year, Sanyo officials said.

In addition, Sanyo is planning to market HDTV sets with the new decoders next autumn, they said.

Sanyo will be responsible for designing circuits for decoders, while LSI Logic will be in charge of the development of the LSI's, they said.

LSI Logic will start mass production of the LSI's next summer at the Tsukuba plant of its affiliate company, Nihon Semiconductor Inc., to supply them to Sanyo and other customers, they said.

Since it is essential to develop new decoders with advanced LSI's to lower the price of an HDTV set, currently at 4-5 million yen, Sanyo has decided to tie up with LSI Logic, which has high performance in developing LSI's including application specific integrated circuits (ASIC), the officials said.

The decision also aims at increasing the purchasing ratio of foreign semiconductors under the Japan-U.S. Semiconductor Agreement, they said.

Matsushita To Set Up HDTV Research Center

OW1607141591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. announced Tuesday it will set up a research center in Germany in September to collect information on development of high- definition television (HDTV) and related video technology.

The Panasonic European R and D Center will be located in the suburbs of Frankfurt on the main, Hesse, Matsushita officials said.

The new center aims at watching the movement toward standardization of HDTV in Europe and establishing a production base accordingly in the future, the officials said.

Contrary to development of standardized HDTV in Japan, European HDTV is being developed in a different way, they said.

The center will be headed by a German executive and have 17 staff members at the beginning, they said.

Japan's other leading consumer electronics makers, including Sharp Corp., Sony Corp., and Hitachi Ltd., have already begun collecting information on European HDTV at their European research institutes, industry sources said.

North Korea

Pyongyang Agrees to Nuclear Safeguards Accord

OW1507161491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1531 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Vienna, July 15 KYODO—North Korea has agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement on international inspection of its nuclear facilities, a spokesman for the regulatory body said Monday. The agreement is expected to be initialed Tuesday.

Pyongyang told the IAEA in Vienna in June that it is ready to sign the safeguards agreement requiring it to open nuclear sites to IAEA inspectors. North Korea signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985 but has thus far refused to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement mandating international supervision.

Japan, the United States, and other countries concerned over the North's alleged nuclear weapons program have been demanding that Pyongyang grant access to IAEA inspectors.

Yun Ki-pok Reacts to Grand March Proposal

SK1607121691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Press Statement by Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF); date not given; read by announcer—recorded]

[Text] The reunification of the country, which the entire nation has been eagerly awaiting, is near at hand as a matter of reality rather than as a matter of the distant future. All the Korean compatriots of the North, the South, and overseas who desire peace and reunification of the country are vigorously launching themselves into a pannational reunification movement to greet 1995 as the first year of the reunification of the fatherland.

Reflecting this yearning and aspiration for reunification of the fellow countrymen which is running higher with each passing day, we on 11 July took the initiative on the resumption of the North-South high-level talks which have been interrupted for over half a year, and on 15 July called again for the convocation of the political consultative meeting for national reunification on the occasion of 15 August liberation day to determine the joint national reunification method, proposing to the South side that the two sides hold working talks for this.

The patriotic activities for reunification by the Pannational Alliance for Reunification [Pomminnyon] are also becoming active. The Pomminnyon as early as the end of last year decided to propose holding the 1991 pannational meeting in Seoul on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the 15 August liberation and has accelerated preparations for it since then. At the first round of the preparatory meeting held in Berlin at the end of last June, the Pomminnyon summed up the progress of the preparations for the Seoul pannational meeting and adopted a series of important resolutions.

As has already been well known to the world, at the first round of the preparatory meeting, the Pomminnyon resolved that some 1,000 delegates and observers each from the North, the South, and overseas should participate in the Seoul pannational meeting, that the Paektu-Halla grand march, a grand debate for the method of fatherland reunification, and a reunification cultural festival should be grandly held, that a grand reunification festival of the students from the North, the South, and overseas should be held, and that reunification festivals of various kinds should be held, during the period of this meeting.

All the fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas take great interest in the Seoul pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival, which will be a remarkable event in the history of our nation's reunification movement, and are accelerating the preparations for it at a final stage.

At a time like this, the South Korean authorities on 15 July issued a statement to the North in the name of the unification minister proposing that a grand reunification march be held such as the North and the South jointly commemorating the 15 August liberation day as a civilian event arranged by the authorities, holding a grand cross-country march, and holding a grand debate on the issue of reunification in Pyongyang and Seoul. At the same time they proposed home visits by the displaced families around the time of chusok this year.

The South Korean persons in authority—who have always rejected and obstructed in every way they can the Seoul pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival which have been jointly pushed ahead by us and the democratic figures of the South and overseas and our proposal for the political consultative meeting to finalize the joint national reunification method—proposed, though belatedly, to push ahead with a grand reunification march on the occasion of 15 August liberation day. We think this a fortunate thing irrespective of their true intent.

The proposals the South Korean authorities put forward in their statement to the North are not new of course as they are all envisaged in the schedule of the second round of pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival that have already been planned and prepared by Pomminnyon.

If and when the second round of the pannational meeting for national peace and reunification is convened on 15 August as planned by the Pomminnyon, under its supervision all of the functions—such as the grand march for reunification that the South Korean authorities propose to hold on the anniversary of the 15 August national liberation—will be conducted as a matter of course. Also a more splendid festival for reunification will be held, thereby implanting in the hearts of the fellow countrymen a great hope for national reunification.

In fact, a banquet arrangement to greet the 46th anniversary of the 15 August national liberation as a great reunification festival of the nation can be said to be already in place.

So, we believe that if the South Korean authorities are willing to have a joint celebration of the anniversary of the 15 August national liberation as a significant national festival, they should allow the broad range of the South Korean people to attend the second round of pannational meeting and the students' grand reunfication festival scheduled to be held in Seoul. They should guarantee necessary conditions for these national festivals and actively support them so as to make these national festivals proceed propitiously, instead of putting forward what it calls proposals to the North, which is hardly necessary for now, of all times.

Proceeding from this thinking, we are going to make clear our position to hold the joint national festivals for reunification in Seoul on this year's anniversary of 15 August national liberation as planned, with the joint effort of the North and South:

First, believing that the South Korean authorities' suggestion that a series of joint festivals on the anniversary of 15 August national liberation be conducted as civilian functions as an expression of respect for and recognition of the decision made at the preparatory meeting in Berlin for the second round of pannational meeting, we propose that the South Korean authorities allow a broad range of organizations and persons aspiring for reunification to participate in the pannational meeting and grand festivals of youth and students for reunification that have already been arranged, in addition to the Pomminnyon-affiliated organizations.

Second, we suggest that the preparatory talks between the North and South and overseas be held in Seoul on this 25 July to discuss the issues concerning a joint holding of the festivals on the anniversary of the 15 August national liberation.

It will be ideal if the delegations to the preparatory talks are composed of five to seven persons respectively. There should be people having relations with the pannational meeting in the North and South and abroad. They will be in charge of the civilian festivals and representatives of the authorities who are to guarantee the meeting and cooperate in it.

Third, we propose that the South Korean authorities set free all of those related to the South side's Pomminnyon and Chondaehyop, those directly responsible organizations that have prepared the pannational meeting and grand festivals of the youth and students for reunification in South Korea, at least before the preparatory meeting at the latest and then guarantee, without fail, on the convening of the Seoul pannational meeting and the grand festival of the youth and students for reunification.

As for the proposal for reunion of the separated families that the South Korean authorities put forward this time, it will be settled without difficulty if the South side shows sincerity in reopening the contact of both sides' Red Cross working delegations.

The second round of pannational meeting and students' grand reunification festival that have long been arranged, the crystallization of the lofty desire of the people from all walks of life in the North and South and abroad for reunification, should be held without fail.

We will make every sincere effort possible to promote the (9-10 August) pannational meeting in Seoul and the students' grand reunification festival. They are expected to provide a new turning point for national reconciliation, unity, and reunification.

The South Korean authorities' proposal as such should not be made into only a political farce of undermining national reconciliation and mocking fellow countrymen like the one into which last year's 15 August proposal for great national exchange was made. It should also not be allowed to disappoint once again the entire fellow countrymen who hope for national reunification.

We express our hope that the South Korean authorities, looking squarely at the expectation and concern of the entire fellow countrymen directed at the reunification festivals scheduled for 15 August, will make every effort possible to make this national function of historic proportions a success.

16 July 1991 Pyongyang

Amnesty International Report on South Viewed

SK1507105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—The Amnesty International in its report for 1990 exposed the human rights situation in South Korea, according to a foreign press report July 11.

In the report the Amnesty International said that there are many political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in South Korea and some of them have been kept in prison for more than fifteen years.

South Korea bans contact with the North by the "National Security Law", it said.

It pointed out that the number of the people arrested on charges of violation of the "law" is on the increase.

Among the detainees who had been sentenced to prison terms on charges of "spying" are people who have been in jail from the 1950s, it said.

It drew attention to the fact that most of the detainees were unjustly tried or forced to "confession". It urged the South Korean authorities to re-examine the fairness of the trials of those who have been detained on "spy" charges.

Soldier in South Reportedly Commits Suicide

SK1507081091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0540 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—Corporal Han Kuk, a guardsman belonging to a puppet army unit in Sihung, Kyonggi Province, deserted the barracks on July 12, according to a radio report from Seoul.

He ran away, carrying with him the "M-16" rifle, bullets and handgrenades.

He committed suicide by exploding a handgrenade after exchanging fire with the puppet army soldiers on his trail.

There are frequent cases of puppet army soldiers deserting the barracks, discontented with the present "regime" and service in the puppet army.

South's Arrest of Dissidents' Fathers Denounced

SK1607055291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Reversed "Law and Order"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 16 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group which had already detained the fathers of murdered students Kang Kyong-tae and Pak Chong-chol, charging them with "a disturbance in the court" some time ago, issued arrest writs against three members of the Council of the Movement of Families for Practising Democracy in South Korea (Mingahyop) and is searching them.

This is a lawless, brigandish act of those who brutally murdered patriotic students, an act reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!" says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

It is only too natural that Kang's father and members of Mingahyop should protest against the authorities' brazen distortion alleging that Kang Kyong-tae died for his own fault, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Branding the well-grounded protest of bereaved families against the unjust trial as "a challenge to law and order," the No Tae-u ruling group is now trying to punish them on the "special charge of insults to the court." This is an outrageous "law and order" under which the assailant acts a judge against the victim.

Not content with the fatal beating of patriotic students, the No Tae-u ruling group schemes to punish even their parents by invoking fascist law. This is a move to turn the court further into a fascist one and intensify retaliatory political crackdown on patriotic democratic forces.

The No group must immediately stop its fascist crackdown on the families of patriotic martyrs, immediately release the unwarrantably arrested family members and step down as demanded by the people.

Students Urge South Release 'Patriotic Figures'

SK1607054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 16 (KCNA)—Women students of Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies held a meeting on the occasion of the "period of encouragement to pro-reunification patriotic figures and the struggle for their release", at which they demanded an immediate release of coed Yim Su-kyong.

The speakers said at the meeting that the anti-reunification, anti-national criminal act of the No Tae-u authorities in "criminalizing" and keeping behind bars coed Yim Su-kyong who had devotedly set out on the arduous road to bring earlier national reunification as a student of the new generation can never be pardoned.

They denounced the South Korean ruling group for arresting Mun Ik-hwan, Mun Kyu-hyon, Yu Won-ho and other visitors to the North, and Im Chong-sok, Song Kap-sok, Chon Mun-hwan, Kim Chong-sik and other hardcore students of the South Korean National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) by invoking anti-reunification evil laws and committing all fascist atrocities against them still today.

They demanded that the South Korean rulers stop their anachronistic anti-reunification acts at once and release the visitors to the North, patriotic students and all the other "political prisoners" without delay.

They stressed the need to continue to fight till coed Yim Su-kyong is freed from the clutches of fascism, extend active support and encouragement to the struggle of Chondaehyop and thus make a success of the August 15 grand reunification festival of students in the North, the South and overseas without fail.

12-14 Jul Strike Exercises Against North Noted

SK1607054291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Naval Command recently staged a provocative joint strike exercise against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in this reckless war exercise staged for long hours in the sky above the west coastal area of South Chungchong Province were formations of assault planes, pursuit-assault planes, VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes based in the Japan proper and the Pacific, and fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

The U.S. imperialists on July 14 let a U-2 high-altitude strategical reconnaissance plane make a shuttle flight from the east to the west along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] for an intensive aerial espionage on targets in the depths of the North side.

The South Korean puppets continuously committed aerial war games and gunfirings getting on our nerve near the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] of the MDL.

On the 14th, five helicopters flying in the sky above the Paegyon-ri, Kunnae-myon, Paju County, Kyonggi Province, staged frantic take-off and landing exercises for an infiltration into the depths of the North side around the DMZ of the MDL and, earlier, on the 12th, five 500-md armed helicopters staged a war exercise, noisily making an ultra low-altitude flight in the sky above Paegyon-ri.

The number of warplanes mobilized in the aerial war exercises against the North in the sky above South Korea over July 12-14 totalled more than 1,500.

Kim Il-song Receives Letter From U.S. Veteran

SK1307051291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a letter of thanks from Richard Adams, chairman of the Society of Veterans of the Korean war, pertaining to the measure of transferring remains of 11 U.S. soldiers.

In the letter Richard Adams said that the great humanitarian measure taken recently opened a door for improving relations, contacts and understandings between the peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

He expressed thanks to President Kim Il-song on behalf of his society and evinced his readiness to render friendly assistance to continue the humanitarian dialogue.

He wished President Kim Il-song and the Korean people great success in the endeavours to achieve national reunification and "peaceful one Korean nation".

Foreign Organizations on U.S. Nuclear 'Threat'

SK1507152191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—Foreign public organizations have expressed support to the joint statement of the political parties and public organizations of the DPRK on the daily increasing nuclear threat of the United States.

Milos Dukic, secretary general of the Yugoslav League for Peace, independence and equality of peoples, said when he was interviewed in Belgrade by the KCNA Correspondent: As long as the U.S. forces remain in South Korea, the complete sovereignty of the Korean people and their national reunification cannot be realized. Referring to "nuclear inspection" cried for by the U.S. imperialists. He said if a nuclear inspection is to be made, it must not be confined to the North of Korea which has no nuclear weapon but be simultaneously made of the South where many nuclear weapons are present.

In a solidarity letter to the Korea-Poland Friendship Association, the chairman and the secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Poland-Korea Friendship Association states [word indistinct] will continue to support the

Korean people in their struggle to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone and get the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from there in order to reunify the country on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity." The chairman of the Bulgarian National Peace Committee said in a solidarity letter to the Korean anti-nuke peace committee: So long as more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons remain deployed in South Korea and war games for the use of those mass destruction weapons continue there every year, peace and security in this region is unthinkable.

PRC Envoy Hosts Party on Treaty Anniversary

SK1607090491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Zheng Yi, the PRC's ambassador to our country, hosted a party at his embassy on 11 July on the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Chinese-Korean Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance.

Invited to the party were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Political Bureau and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, vice premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, and Comrade Choe Kwang, chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, both of whom are members of the Central Committee of of the WPK and the Political Bureau; Comrade Kang Hui-won, member of the WPK Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Bureau and vice premier of the Administration Council; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [Standing Committee]; and Chong Chun-ki, Kim Kwang-chin, Cho Myong-nok, Kim Il-chol, Kwon Min-chun, Cha Pong-chu, and other officials concerned.

Present there were the visiting delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the Chinese-Korean Friendship Association led by Han Xu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries; the Jilin, China, provincial friendship delegation led by Jilin Vice Governor Liu Xilin; and the Liaoning, China, provincial friendship delegation led by Peng Xiangsong, vice chairman of the Liaoning Provincial Political Consultative Conference.

Ambassador Zheng Yi spoke first at the party. Referring to the significance of the signing of the Chinese-Korean Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, he said that this treaty has become a strong legal basis for Chinese-Korean friendship which the people of the two countries forged in blood in the prolonged revolutionary struggle.

He pointed out: In the spirit of the treaty, for the past thirty years, the governments of the two countries have cultivated and more profoundly and extensively developed relations of friendship and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, and scientific and technological fields and various other fields.

He also said that the Chinese people have paid great attention to Korea's cause of socialist construction. He went on to say: Under the guidance of their great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song and the WPK, the fraternal Korean people are registering eye-catching successes in the socialist revolution and construction by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle and highly upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

He also said: Socialist construction has brought about dynamic realities everywhere in Korea. The industrial, agricultural, and scientific and technological fields and all the other fields are modernized everyday.

He also said: A new socialist Korea that is self-dependent in politics, self-supportive in the economy, and self-reliant in defense is standing magnificently in the east of the world.

He also stressed that Korea is always playing an important role in defending peace in Asia and the world.

He also said: We very much rejoice over the Korean people's great achievements and wish them brilliant successes in revolution and construction.

He also said that achieving the peaceful reunification of the country at an early date is the cherished desire of all the Korean people and that the Chinese party and Government resolutely support the three principles of independent, peaceful reunification and the proposal for achieving the peaceful reunification of the country through a confederacy based on one nation and one state and two systems and two governments, which were presented by Comrade President Kim Il-song.

He also said that the Chinese party and Government very much treasure Chinese-Korean friendship and that endlessly developing relations of friendship and cooperation is in compliance with the basic interests of the people of the two countries.

He also said: We believe that no matter what violent storms may come, the people of China and Korea will be strongly united to resolutely march along the single road of socialism and that Chinese-Korean friendship will shine more brightly.

Comrade Choe Kwang spoke next. He said: The signing of the Korean-Chinese Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance was a great event which elevated to a new, higher stage the Korean-Chinese friendship sealed in blood through a protracted struggle to fulfili common goals.

He noted that the parties, governments, and people of the two countries vigorously waged a common struggle to defend the revolutionary achievements, accelerate socialist construction, and promote peace in Asia and the world. He also said that he was proud that the traditional Korean-Chinese friendship which was provided by the leaders of the two countries and cemented by the treaty and has overcome all the trials in history is now displaying its great vitality in the struggle to defend and complete the socialist cause. He also said that developing the great Korean-Chinese friendship generation after generation is the indomitable will of our party, government, and people and that they will positively make efforts to develop relations between the two countries in the political, economic, and cultural fields and all the other fields in the spirit of the treaty.

He pointed out successes that the fraternal Chinese people are achieving today in their struggle to build socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the CPC with respected Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core, adding: Our people wish the Chinese people great successes in the struggle to carry out the ten-year plan for the people's economic and social development and the Eighth Five-Year Plan and are expressing firm support for and solidarity with the Chinese people's just cause of reunifying the country peacefully according to the one-country, two-system concept.

The participants in the party toasted the eternal and imperishable Korean-Chinese friendship, the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the long life and good health of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and the long life and good health of respected Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, and Li Peng.

Meanwhile, a film show and a party were given at the consulate of China in Chongjin that day to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Chinese-Korean Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance.

CPC Committee Visits South Pyongan Province

SK1507070791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0538 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee, on July 13 met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China led by deputy permanent secretary of the provincial party committee, on a visit to South Pyongan Province.

Kim Il-song Receives Visiting PRC Delegation

SK1407101691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0854 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Sino-Korean Friendship Association headed by Han Xu, president of the CPAFFC.

Present on the occasion were chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Chong Chun-ki, vice-director of a Department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chae-pong and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

He received a gift from the guests.

PRC Delegation Brings Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1407100591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0856 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the visiting delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Sino-Korean Friendship Association.

Head of the delegation Han Xu, president of the CPAFFC, handed the gift to an official concerned.

Red Cross Society Sends Sympathy to China

SK1407084291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committees of the DPRK Red Cross Society and the Korea-China Friendship Association sent messages of sympathy to their Chinese counterparts.

Upon hearing the unhappy news that many casualties and material losses were caused by flood in provinces and cities of China some time ago, they express deep condolences to the victims.

They also express the belief that the flood-hit areas will be rehabilitated quickly by the devoted efforts of the Chinese party, Government and people so that the people may lead a stabilized life.

Editorial on 'Invincible' Friendship With China

SK1607054491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0014 GMT 11 Jul 91

[NODONG SINMUN 11 Jul Editorial: "Invincible Korea-China Friendship Sealed in Blood"]

[Text] Today, our people are significantly marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between the two countries of Korea and China.

On this occasion, the Korean people extend enthusiastic congratulations and warm greetings to the fraternal Chinese people.

The signing of the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between Korea and China on 11 July 1961 was an expression of the firm will of the Korean and Chinese people who were to fight together against imperialism and for the victory of the socialist cause. It has become an important opportunity to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries at a new higher level.

Over the past 30 years, the treaty has contributed greatly to defending the gains of the revolution in our two countries, to accelerating socialist construction, and to maintaining peace in Asia and the world. The Korea-China Friendship has a long and deep historic root.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has indicated: "The friendship between our two parties and people is an invincible friendship sealed in blood among class-oriented brothers in their joint struggle against imperialism and for the victory of peace and the socialist cause."

From very early on, the people of Korea and China have linked their destinies and shared life and death through their struggles against the common enemy. In addition, they have assumed the responsibility as comrades-in-arms of revolution and have promoted their friendly relations as comrades-in-arms.

The people of our two countries, shoulder to shoulder, have struggled together against imperialism and closely supported and cooperated with each other in their struggle for socialist construction.

In the grim days of the Fatherland Liberation War, in particular, the fraternal Chinese people dispatched their outstanding sons and daughters to the Korean front and helped our people's struggle for justice with their blood. This was a living example of proletarian internationalism.

Today, Korea-China friendship, which was consolidated in the flame of the harsh struggle of revolution, continues to display vitality in defending and developing the anti-imperialism independent and socialist causes.

The visits and meetings between the leaders of the two countries in recent years have contributed to further developing Korea-China friendship, smashing the imperialists' peaceful transition strategy, and defending socialist cause.

With the advance of the revolutionary cause, the people of Korea and China vigorously consolidate and develop Korea-China friendship with each passing day. This is because the friendly relations between the people of Korea and China are based on the special relations between the leaders of the two countries and on the common aspiration and desire of the two peoples. This is also because their friendly relations are the type that can withstand all kinds of harsh trials.

Our party and people are satisfied with the fact that the traditional Korea-China friendship is growing and developing with each passing day.

Under the present situation in which the imperialists are strengthening their plot against socialism, it is important to further consolidate and develop Korea-China friendship to carry out the socialist cause and maintain peace in Asia.

It is also the firm position of our party and government that the DPRK constantly strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation with the Chinese people. Our people, generation after generation, will make every effort to consolidate and develop the traditional Korea-China friendship.

The people of Korea and China, according to the spirit of the treaty, have supported and cooperated with each other and attained great achievements in carrying out revolution and construction.

China's socialist construction in recent years has entered a new stage of development. The Chinese people, under the correct leadership of the CPC, have firmly maintained socialism, the people's proletarian dictatorship, leadership of the Communist Party, and Marxism-Leninism Mao thought by consolidating a political phase with stability and cohesion. In addition, they have attained great success in their struggle for modern socialist construction with Chinese characteristics by pushing ahead with the Chinese reforms and opening up.

In upholding the decisions of the 7th Plenary Session of the 13th CPC Central Committee and 4th Meeting of the 7th National People's Congress, the Chinese people, with their firm conviction, today are vigorously launching a struggle to carry out the people's economy, Ten-Year Plan for the Social Development, and 8th Five-Year Plan.

The Chinese people are positively struggling to achieve national reunification according to their policy based on one nation, two systems. By continually maintaining its independent, sovereign, and peace-loving foreign policy, the PRC has greatly contributed to maintaining peace in Asia and the world. Thus, the PRC's stature in international society has been enhanced with each passing day.

The brilliant success of the Chinese people in socialist construction and the growth of the might of socialism give a great encouragement to the world's revolutionary people who aspire to independence, progression, and socialism. In addition, it deals a heavy blow to the international reactionaries who are against the trend of history.

The Korean people are genuinely pleased to see that socialist China is winning victory after victory. Our people wish the fraternal Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC with the respected Jiang Zemin as a core, greater progress in their struggle for the construction of their powerful socialist country.

With a single-hearted mind united around the party and leader, our people today are vigorously accelerating socialist construction and sternly struggling to hasten national reunification. The unanimous will of our people is that the 1990s should be the period of reunification.

Destroying the antipeace, antireunification plots of the splitists at home and abroad, our people are exerting all effort to achieve the country's reunification through a confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems, two governments.

The party, Government, and people of China always actively support our people's just cause for socialist construction and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. Our people remember their support.

The people of Korea and China, as they did in the past, will struggle jointly against the imperialists who are out to destroy socialism. In addition, they will continue to vigorously advance in their friendship for the victory of the socialist cause. The Korea-China friendship sealed in blood will be forever.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Leaves Pyongyang

SK1507084391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet-Korea Friendship Association led by (Vashiliy Yerchendo) left Pyongyang today by plane.

At the airport, the delegation was met by O Kil-pang, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Korea-Soviet Friendship Association, and officials of the Soviet Embassy to our country.

Supreme Soviet Official Arrives in Pyongyang

SK1507103991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—A. Mokanu, vice-president of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and his companion arrived here today for a visit to Korea at the invitation of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They were met at the airport by vice-chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Paek In-chun, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, and Soviet Ambassador to Korea Aleksandr Kapto.

Japanese Assemblymen Initiate Friendship League

SK1507070991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo July 13 (KNS-KCNA)—The Gifu Prefectural Assemblymen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship was formed on July 4.

The inaugural meeting discussed the rules, action program and working plan and elected executives.

Yukio Funato of the Liberal Democratic Party, deputy secretary general of the League, was elected chairman.

The League embraces 52 prefectural assemblymen.

It is aimed at helping toward promoting friendship and mutual understanding bween Japan and the DPRK.

And the Fukushima Prefectural Assemblymen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship was inaugurated on July 5.

Tasado Oono, a prefectural assemblymen, was elected chairman.

The league is formed of 48 prefectural assemblymen.

Japanese Socialists Adopt Resolutions on Ties

SK1607053791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 16 JUl 91

[Text] Tokyo July 14 (KNS-KCNA)—Resolutions urging an early normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations were adopted at regular meetings of prefectural headquarters of the Japan Social-Democratic Party.

A resolution adopted at the 53rd regular meeting of the Tottori Prefectural headquarters on July 7 said that the joint declaration of the three parties made public in Pyongyang in September last year is an epochal one on the apology to the Korean people for the losses inflicted upon them for 36 years when Japan dominated Korea as a colony and for 45 years after the Second World War, solution of the pending questions and an early normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations.

The resolution strongly demanded that the Government of Japan immediately resume inter-governmental contacts for the normalization of diplomatic relations on the basis of the three party joint declaration.

A resolution adopted at the 55th regular meeting of the Kumamoto Prefectural headquarters said it is to be regretted that the three party joint declaration has not yet been realised. It strongly demanded that the Government of Japan approach Japan-Korea inter-governmental negotiations with sincerity.

A resolution adopted at the 40th regular meeting of the Yamaguchi Prefectural headquarters urged the Government of Japan to show sincerity in realising the three party joint declaration and step up the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Fukushima Group Urges Early Ties With Japan

SK1507063691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo July 12 (KNS-KCNA)—The Fukushima Prefectural Assembly of Japan adopted a recommendation on July 5 demanding an early normalisation of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations.

The recommendation strongly urged the government authorities to make active efforts for an early establishment of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations, saying that the normalisation of the diplomatic relations is the desire of the prefectural people.

The assemblies which adopted recommendations and resolutions in Fukushima Prefecture total 25, the breakdown being 1 prefecture, 6 cities, 11 cho [blocks] and 7 mura [towns].

Kim Yong-sun Meets Japanese SDP Delegation

SK1507104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly conversation with a delegation of the Hiroshima Prefectural Headquarters of the

Japan Social-Democratic Party [SDP] headed by Masanori Watakabe, director of the organizational department.

The head of the delegation said:

Seeing at first hand the reality of the people-first socialism of Korean style, I learned well it is because the leader, the party and the masses are united that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is unswervingly walking to the road of its development.

The suspension of the intergovernmental talks for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations is attributable to the Japanese side, he said, and declared: We will launch brisk activities for an early normalization of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Secretary Kim Yong-sun today met and had a conversation with American journalist Bernard Krisher and his party.

Cuban Fountain Termed Gift of Kim Chong-il

SK1507060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 15 (KCNA)—The Cuban paper GRANMA July 12 under the title "There Is Something To Talk at the Friendship Fountain" and the subtitle "The Largest Fountain in Cuba Built by Strenuous Efforts of DPRK's Engineers and Combatants of Hero Unit" carried an article introducing the "Havana-Pyongyang Friendship Fountain" which was built in Cuba as a gift of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper said that technicians and builders of Korea and Cuba successfully erected the friendship fountain at the place of the 11th Pan-American Games.

This friendship fountain presented by Comrade Kim Chong-il as a gift is as beautiful as that in front of the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace in Pyongyang, it noted.

Another Cuban paper TRIBUNA July 11 carried an article headlined "Successful Conclusion of Third Test of Havana-Pyongyang Friendship Fountain."

So Yun-sok Attends Sunchon Complex Rally

SK1607081891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The spirit of loyalty is high at the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, a chuche-oriented general chemical base.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, while acquainting himself with the state of the production of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and its construction, recently put forth a militant task to actively contribute to increasing the vinalon and chemical fertilizer production, accelerating the construction of the new chemical fertilizer production base, and properly solving our people's problems of food, clothing, and shelter, and showed the way and method to accomplish that task.

A joint rally of the employees and construction workers of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and other related enterprises was held on the spot yesterday to thoroughly implement the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's recent teaching.

Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], and responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Province Party Committee and chairman of the South Pyongan Province People's Committee; Comrade Pak Nam- ki, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Man-song, chairman of the South Pyongan Province Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; and other functionaries concerned attended the rally along with the employees and construction workers of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and the related enterprises.

At the rally, debates were held after Comrade So Yun-sok delivered a report. [passage omitted]

'Superiority', Prospects of Socialism Discussed

SK1607082991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 8 Jul 91

[NODONG SINMUN 8 July special article: "Socialism with Bright Prospects Which Is Being Cultivated, Developed, and Completed Under the Leadership of the Party"]

[Text] Our party has fought its way through the protracted and arduous road. The history of our party is the proud history of building a peculiar socialism of our style under the banner of the chuche idea and of constantly developing and consummating it. Indeed, our party has done a lot of work and registered immortal achievements in the course of leading the cause of socialism, while breaking through multilayered barriers and trials. Because of its thorough faith in and infinite devotion to the cause of socialism and because of its great achievements registered in defending the ideal of socialism and enhancing its superiority, our party has come to enjoy high honor and prestige as the great guide [hyangdoja] of the cause of socialism.

Today, our people not only firmly look ahead at the victory of the cause of the revolution of chuche from the greatness and leadership ability of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song—who has built the man-centered socialism of our style and is brilliantly consummating it—and our party center, but are also filled with the burning determination to carry out the revolution to the end under the leadership of the great party.

1. Socialism of Our Style in Which the Popular Masses Are Placed at the Center Is a Peculiar Socialism of Our Style Which Was Charted by the Respected and Beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Which Is Advancing Under the Banner of the Chuche Idea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, has indicated: Since the chuche idea created by the great leader indicates the road ahead of our revolution and there is the wise leadership of the party and the leader, our people have made steadfast progress along the road of socialism of chuche chosen by themselves according to their faith and have thus built a most superior socialism of our style.

Socialism is the historic cause which is pioneered by the leader and is consummated under the leadership of the party. Socialism, which realizes the popular masses' independence and pioneers the bright future of mankind, should fight its way through a totally new path, a path never before walked by anyone. Without the leadership of the party and the leader, we cannot advance the cause of socialism even one step, nor can we safeguard and defend it. Along which road will socialism advance? What aspect will socialism assume? What great vitality will socialism display? These depend totally on the leadership of the party and the leader.

It is thanks to the wise leadership of the party and the leader that our socialism has been launched on a new and unique way and continues making a long drive without the slightest vacillation and vicissitude. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, by embodying the chuche idea, has wisely led our people to build socialism in conformity with their aspirations and the situation of our country and, thus, has outstandingly built on this land the socialism with a chuche-oriented character as we see today.

The inherent characteristics and superiority of the socialism that is built in each country are prescribed by its guiding ideology. The guiding ideology is the basic factor which decides the direction and ways of socialist construction. Experience and reality show that the character, characteristics, and vitality of socialism are determined depending upon the type of the guiding ideology used as a weapon in building socialism.

The peculiar character and superiority of our socialism stem from the greatness of the chuche idea founded by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and its invincibility. The ideology, theory, and method of chuche are the new and unique ones which most correctly elucidate all problems which arise in the socialist construction of our times. Our socialism was successfully started on the basis of the chuche idea, and it is being promoted, consolidated, developed with the chuche idea as its guideline.

Our people have built socialism in a unique way in conformity with the specific conditions of our country along the road they have chosen with the chuche idea as its guideline. The uniqueness of our style of socialism which has embodied the chuche idea has been clearly demonstrated in safeguarding, defending, and realizing the independent aspirations and demands of the broad segments of the working masses, including the working class. Socialism is the cause in the interests of the broad segments of the working masses, and it is also the cause which is carried out by the working masses themselves. Therefore, only the socialism in which those who treasure independence can safeguard and implement their aspirations and demands, regardless of whatever class or segment they belong to, can be the most solid and viable one.

Identifying the masses of all walks of life, including the working class, farmers, and working intellectuals, as the genuine master of society and taking their [word indistinct] aspirations and demands as the starting point of all lines and policies is the important principle that our party has consistently adhered to in the entire course of socialist construction.

Its consistent adherence to this principle from the day the blazing of the socialist path began has enabled our country to establish a unique socialism centered on the popular masses, a socialism in which literally the working masses are the driving force.

It is because our party fully defends the desire and demands of not only the working class, but also of the masses from all walks of life such as peasants and intellectuals and because it has built socialism on the most solid and broadest social and class foundation that our socialism is now growing stronger and developing with each passing day based on the absolute support and trust of the broader popular masses.

It is because the fundamental problems arising in implementing the socialist cause have been solved in our own way that our country has been able to build a unique socialist system centered on the popular masses.

First of all, the question of people's power was brilliantly settled in our country based on the chuche idea. The basic question in the socialist revolution aimed at realizing independence for the popular masses is at once the question of the people's power.

In order to successfully explore the path to socialism and advance along it, it is imperative to build a people's power under the leadership of the working class before anything else. Only then can we carry out the socialist revolution and successfully advance the socialist cause using the people's power as a weapon.

By inheriting the experience and tradition acquired in the course of building the people's power during the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the people's power immediately after national liberation and has embarked upon the path of developing it into a socialist power keeping in line with the developing revolution and construction.

Our people's power, built by our people on their own, according to the dictate of their own will and the reality of our country, has been a completely independent power from the beginning.

Our people's power, a power that is built on an unusually broad social and political foundation based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class and the broad popular masses' united front, has struck its root deep in the hearts of the popular masses.

In the whole course of our country's socialist construction, the people's power has been made to serve the people as representative of the popular masses' independent right, as organizer of their creative ability and activity, as head of a family responsible for the people's living, and as a defender of the people's interest.

Our people's power, which has the chuche idea as its guidelines, has become a powerful political weapon for our own style of socialism. It is precisely because of this weapon that our socialist cause has kept making progress in the arduous and grave struggle for creation and construction, without experiencing any stagnation and twists and turns.

Also, our country has established a new socio-economic system of our own style by carrying out the democratic revolution and the socialist revolution according to the will of our people and to the concrete reality in our country.

If we are to establish a superior socialist system that realizes the popular masses' independent desires and interests, it is imperative to liquidate the old economic relations and correctly carry out the revolution aimed at establishing a new socio-economic system.

The socio-economic system is the economic base which defines the superiority and solidity of socialism. By completely carrying out the democratic revolution according to the demand of the continued revolution to socialism, our country has been able to solve this question most successfully.

Our country has carried out land reform by confiscating the land from the landed lords without paying and distributing it to landless peasants and peasants with small tracts free of charge, thereby providing preconditions favorable to turning the rural economy into a cooperative body with restrictive measures imposed on rich farmers.

It is the fundamental task of the socialist revolution to restructure the old production relations in the cities and rural community. In the course of carrying out the socialist revolution, our party, while taking into full account the objective conditions of the revolution, saw to it that the subjective elements, the degree of the popular masses' awakening and organization, are assumed as the base, and the most appropriate timing be chosen for the socialist revolution.

In view of the inevitable demand of the developing revolution, class forces, the peasants' desire, and even the position of the handicraft industrialists and capitalist merchants, the postwar period was an appropriate time to start a full-scale implementation of socialist reform.

Based on a scientific insight into the specific conditions of our country's rural community and the peasants' revolutionary desire in the postwar period, our party has taken the road of collectivizing agriculture along the unique guideline of converting the economic form into a socialist one on the basis of the capitalist nature, before starting technological reform.

At the same time, our party has seen to it that the rich farmers and capitalist merchants are steadily reformed, without liquidating them, letting them enter the socialist road voluntarily.

Thanks to our party's unique socialist reform policy and wise leadership, our country has successfully completed the socialist reform in the production relations in the cities and rural community in a short period of four to five years, without deviation. Our country has also solved even the question of establishing socialist education, culture, and public health system based on the chuche idea, on our own.

As a result of this, the most advanced and people-oriented system, under which the party and the state guarantee the people's education and their cultural and public health life in a responsible manner, has been established for the first time in history. It is thanks to our party's unique policy of socialist reforms and its wise leadership that our socialism today has become a peculiar socialism which has vitality and a clear chuche-oriented character. Our party has also been able to brilliantly pioneer the path leading to socialism by firmly building the main force of the revolution and by strengthening by every means the single-minded unity of the leader, the party, and the masses.

Socialism is the historic cause which is pioneered, advanced, and consummated by the strength of the main force of the revolution. The solidness and might of socialism lies not in the size of territory or in the population numbers, but in the main force of the revolution. Therefore, to build the most solid and mighty socialism it is imperative not only to establish the people's government and the advanced social and economic system, but also to firmly build the main force of the revolution. To firmly build the main force of the revolution, it is imperative to direct the social, political, and economic innovative changes toward strengthening the main force of the revolution.

By isolating and weakening the small number of hostile forces to the maximum extent through the correct embodiment of the class line and mass line in conformity with the demands of the chuche idea and by carrying out social, economic, and political innovative changes in conformity with the demands and aspirations of the broad segments of the popular masses since the early days of socialist construction our party has been able to rally the popular masses around the party and the leader and, thus, to firmly strengthen the main force of the revolution. By firmly giving priority to ideological indoctrination work to strengthen the might of the main force of the revolution in socialist construction our party has constantly strengthened and developed the main force of the revolution politically and ideologically.

Because of the existence of the strong main force of the revolution our socialist system has been able to constantly advance at a rapid rate since its establishment while fully displaying its superiority and vitality. In the long period of socialist construction in our country we have never had political instability and trepidation. This is a mighty demonstration of the invincible might of our socialism based on single-minded unity.

The political and ideological might of our socialism is synonymous with the single-minded unity of the leader, the party, and the masses. Our party has achieved the invincible unity of the party and the ranks of the revolution based on the unitariness in its ideology and leadership and, thus, has firmly deepened the main force of the revolution. The basic factor which guarantees the solidity and might of our style of socialism centered on the popular masses lies in the fact that our socialism has firmly achieved the single-minded unity of the leader, the party, and the masses.

In our country, all of the people have firmly armed themselves with the great chuche idea and its embodiment—our party's line and policy—and have firmly united around the party and the leader organizationally, ideologically, morally, and with obligation. Thus, they have been formed as a social and political organism and as the powerful main force of the socialist cause. This great single-minded unity forged with unshaken kindred ties and with the same destiny is precisely our society today and has become the basic source which makes it possible to smash the imperialists' antisocialist maneuvers and which makes it possible for our style of socialism centered on the popular masses to continue victoriously over the long haul.

Our people firmly believe that our style of socialism which has been built with their own stregnth is most superior and unique. With the embodiment of the demands of the chuche idea that everything should serve the popular masses, our country has been turned into the people's paradise. Our people's century-long desire to enjoy an independent and creative life, free from all sorts of subjugation and oppression, has been brilliantly realized in all fields—political, economic, ideological, and cultural lives. For all working people in our country, political freedom and rights have been practically guaranteed, and everyone is leading a dignified life through their political and organizational lives. In our society in which all wealth and assets created by the people are used for their welfare, all people receive rice from the state almost free of charge and are living in opulence equally, without worrying over jobs, education, and medical treatment.

Indeed, our socialism is the most superior socialism in which dignity of human beings is treasured and in which the state provides the people with genuine happiness and valuable life. Such a society—in which noble communist virtue is highly displayed among people, all fields of the social life are developed in a sound way, and all the people prepare themselves to become genuine human beings of chuche type with a noble view on the revolution, that is, a chuche-oriented view of life—is precisely our socialism.

Our socialism in which the chuche-oriented ideology, theory, and method have been embodied is the most superior and peculiar socialism in view of the solidness of society in which the single-minded unity of the ranks of the revolution has been realized at the highest level and in view of the people-oriented character where everything serves the people. We have great pride and dignity because we are building and developing this peculiar and superior socialism of our style which is centered on the popular masses under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

2. Our Party Is a Great Guide of the Socialist Cause Because It Is Constantly Developing and Consummating the Superior Socialism Centred on the Popular Masses in Our Own Way Based on the Chuche Idea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, has indicated: Our party and people are developing and consummating socialism our own way on the basis of the chuche idea. The great leader not only pioneered the unique path to establish the socialist system, but has also clearly elucidated the most correct path of developing and consummating socialism.

A long time has passed since the path of scientific socialism was elucidated for the first time in the history of mankind and the socialist society was born. In this period the cause of socialist construction has advanced far, and today we are faced with the task of developing and consummating the already established and deepened socialist society as a task of history. The party and state of the working class should achieve this task to the end by invariably holding aloft the banner of socialism. The greatness and leadership ability of the party as the guide of the socialist cause find expression in the way of solving the socialist cause.

Our party not only paved the unique way of establishing the socialist system, but has also indicated the most scientific line and policies of developing and consummating socialism so as to clearly elucidate the future road of the socialist cause. Elucidating the scientific theories, strategy, and tactics on developing and consummating socialism in the revolutionary struggle of the working class for socialist construction is very important.

By constantly developing in depth the great leader's theories and policies of socialist construction our party has profoundly propounded in a scientific and theoretical way the features of the completely triumphant socialist society, the revolutionary course of the development of the socialist society, and the strategic and tactical policies that should be adhered to in that course. This is a great historical feat in opening a bright prospect of the people's revolutionary struggle for developing and consummating socialism.

Our party is constantly developing and consummating socialism by laying down the program of modelling the whole society after the chuche idea and the line of the three revolutions and by wisely leading the struggle for their realization. Modelling the whole society after the chuche idea is the powerful communist construction programme to develop and consummate our style of socialism. To build socialism and communism it is imperative to occupy the ideological and material fortresses. This is the general task and the two main strategic goals of socialist, communist construction. Whether or not socialism and communism, can be successfully consummated depends on how the ideological and material fortresses are occupied.

Our party has elucidated the unique ideology and theory that the ideological and material fortresses of communism can be successfully occupied only when the whole society is modelled after the chuche idea on the basis of the scientific analysis of the appearance of the future communist society, the inevitability of its construction, and the historcal position of the chuche idea. Today, our party is brilliantly embodying the unique ideology and theory.

The important task that should be solved without fail in modelling the whole society after the chuche idea is to achieve the complete victory of socialism. Our party has extensively elucidated the characteristics of the completely triumphant socialist society and the strategy and tactics for its realization. All problems which arise in achieving the complete victory of socialism, ranging from the problems of doing away with class distinction and building a classless society to the problems of developing the economy and consolidating and developing the social system, have been clearly expounded with an emphasis on the role of the popular masses.

Our party's ideas and theories on the complete victory of socialism have become invincible weapons that help turn the socialist ideas into reality. This is clearly shown by the fact that today, theories on revolutionizing, working classsizing, and intellectualizing the entire society, consolidating the material and technological basis of socialism, and ultimately solving the rural problems and all the other theories on the complete victory of socialism that our party has presented have blossomed into great reality and have displayed their invincible vitality.

Our party's lines on the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and culural—are the most correct lines that firmly guarantee the development and completion of socialism. This is because the lines on the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—are scientific and revolutionary lines that help most correctly solve all the problems that arise in completing the socialist cause. Only when the three revolutions are carried out, can people's ideas be restructured to comply with the chuche idea, the economy and culture be developed, and the socialist system be consolidated. One can continue to politically and ideologically consolidate the socialist system, which has won a victory, and accelerate economic construction only when one carries out the three revolutions. The lines on the three revolutions are revolutionary lines that enable one to display the absolute superiority of socialism over capitalism and are scientific lines that enable one to build socialism and to develop and complete it without any trivial error or deviation.

Our party has presented the lines on the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—as the most important of strategic lines on socialist construction and thoroughly carried them out. As a result, our socialism has turned into a politically and ideologically sound and solidly united society, and the economy has endlessly developed along the lines on chucheization, modernization, and scientization, and the socialist national culture is brilliantly blossoming and developing.

All the achievements that we have brought about in the political, economic, and cultural fields on the historical road of defending and adhering to the socialist cause and developing and completing it clearly prove that the lines on the three revolutions are almighty weapons for developing and completing socialism and that no other line on socialist construction is better than those lines. Our party has also wholly systemized the chuche-oriented leadership method and created the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method and the Taean work system, thus brilliantly solving the problems of guidance and management work on socialism and endlessly developing and completing socialism.

How well one develops and completes the socialist system after establishing it depends on how well one carries out guidance and management work on this system. Socialism is not raised on the capitalist ground but is newly born on a burial ground of capitalism. Therefore, socialism can only be developed and completed by socialist principles and socialist management and operation methods. The problem of guidance and management of socialist construction must be solved by implementing the principle of displaying the superiority of socialism based upon socialist principles and by mobilizing the popular masses' boundless creativity.

The historic task of solving the problem of guidance and management in compliance with the innate demand of the socialist society could be brilliantly solved when the great leader created a chuche-oriented leadership method and a new economic management system.

Our party has implemented the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit-style work method—which the great leader created amid the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle—in compliance with the realistic demand of socialist construction, thus wholly systemizing the chuche-oriented leadership method and strongly adhering to the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method and the Taean work system. In this way, our party has led the popular masses to excellently manage and operate our socialism.

Because the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method have been implemented, the guiding officials and the popular masses have been very closely associated, subjective and bureaucratic tendencies that have nothing to do with socialism have been overcome completely, and epochal turns have been brought in the work of strengthening blood ties among the party and the masses.

Because the Taean work system has been implemented thoroughly, all the economic tasks have been carried out along the party's policy directives; the people's views have been correctly reflected on economic management; and the officials' sense of responsibility and the workers' enthusiasm have been highly displayed. The superiority and vitality of the great Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method and the Taean work system have been clearly proved by practical examples. They firmly guarantee the development and completion of our style of socialism.

Indeed, the chuche-oriented leadership method—based upon the leader's unitary leadership structure, revolutionary lines on the masses, revolutionary work method, and people-oriented work spirits—and the chuche-oriented economic management system based upon the

Taean work system are powerful weapons that enable us to develop and complete the popular masses-centered socialism according to our style.

Our party has strongly provided all the political and ideological and material and technological foundations for developing and completing our popular masses-centered style of socialism. The process of developing and completing socialism is of a high stage in carrying out the working class' revolutionary cause. A subjective desire to carry out this task is not enough when one does so from scratch and skips necessary sequential development stages.

How wise the party's leadership is in carrying out the socialist cause is determined by whether or not it presents scientific lines and policies and implements them realistically, thus providing a strong basis that guarantees the development and completion of socialist society. A basis for the development and completion of socialism is provided mainly by the work of reforming man, economic construction, and the work of consolidating and developing the socialist system. Under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, in our country, this reform process has been vigorously carried out in all the fields of revolution and construction.

Because the historic task of socialist industrialization has been carried out brilliantly and because several People's Economic Plans and major grand-scale construction projects have been carried out successfully, the might of the self-reliant socialist economy has been strengthened incomparably. The might of our chuche-oriented self-reliant economy based upon the machine-building industry is great. Because there is this powerful material and technological basis which enables our economy to survive without being shaken by any worldwide economic upheaval, our people are accelerating socialist construction according to our style.

Because the ideological revolution and cultural revolution have been carried out under our party's leadership, our people's ideological and spiritual trait and the way they carry out work have undergone fundamental changes. Today, our party members and workers, strongly arming themselves with our party's revolutionary idea, the chuche idea, are being raised to become genuine chuche- type revolutionaries who have high collective spirits and a boundless sense of devotion to the revolution.

Our society has an endless list of heroes and unheralded meritorious people who, like unheralded heroes, have a revolutionary view on the leader and a chuche-oriented view on life and who are devoting themselves to the party and the revolution and the fatherland and the people. Our society is filled with the spirit of living and struggling like heroes. This is our society's proud appearance. This is also a valuable achievement incomparable to any change that has taken place in the field of material production.

If our party had not adhered to and persistently carried out the ideological revolution, it would not have been about to bring about such achievements. The entire society has been strongly united around an idea and will, and the blood ties of the party and the masses have been strengthened incomparably. This clearly shows that our socialist system has been solidly consolidated by the unity and cohesion between the party and the people and that our society has entered a high developmental stage in political and ideological terms.

Based upon the chuche idea, importance has always been given to the popular masses, and their ideas and the work of reforming man and society and economic construction have been accelerated vigorously. This is an important reason our socialism could be developed to a high level today.

Our people won a victory in a socialist revolution and built a socialist system around 30 years ago. During this short period, world-class changes have taken place in political, economical, and cultural fields and all the other fields, and our country is approaching the high peak of the complete victory of socialism. This is truly a stunning miracle.

Today, ours has become a socialism with bright prospects that is endlessly consolidated, developed, and completed toward clear goals and plans under the wise leadership of the great leader and the great party. In building and developing our popular masses-centered style of socialism, our party has fully demonstrated its might as the tested guide of the revolution and accumulated immortal achievements.

The greatness of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party is a fundamental source of the superiority and invincibility of our popular masses-centered style of socialism. The leadership of the respected and beloved leader and our party center is a fundamental guarantee for cultivating and developing and completing our socialism.

Apart from the wise leadership of the party and the leader, we cannot think of the might and superiority of our popular masses-centered style of socialism. Only when there is the leadership of the great leader and our party center, can the chuche-oriented socialist system shine. Also, only when we follow the party's leadership, can we develop and complete our style of socialism. This is a truth that has been proven in our practical revolution. This also is a truth that will never change no matter how many years may pass and how far the socialist cause may go forward. Therefore, our people take to heart the belief that our leader and our party are No. 1 and that the chuche idea, the guiding idea of our revolution, is No. 1 and are firmly resolved to further develop and complete the chuche-oriented socialist system.

Resolutely adhering to and completing to the end our style of socialism cultivated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and being led by our party, is our people's noble duty. Strengthening our party and bolstering its leading role is a decisive guarantee for consolidating and developing our popular masses-centered style of socialism. The socialist cause is the party's cause, and the party's leadership is a lifeline in the socialist cause. We must resolutely adhere to the principle on the party's leadership and loyally uphold our party's leadership generation after generation.

We must take to heart great pride in developing and completing the popular masses-centered socialism according to our style under the leadership of the great Workers Party of Korea. Also, the further the revolution deepens, the further the party's leadership structure and single-minded unity among the party and the leader and the popular masses must be consolidated.

The socialist cause is advanced and completed by the people's high loyalty toward it and their devoted struggle for it. The people's high loyalty and indomitable struggle are driving forces that advance the socialist cause.

In waging a struggle to complete the socialist cause, we must brilliantly inherit the noble loyalty and struggle spirit which have been highly displayed along the arduous and noble road to socialism under the leadership of the party and the leader. The great party's leadership deeply rooted in the popular masses, the people's high devotion to this leadership, and their resolute struggle are the source of might with which we can complete the socialist cause according to our style after overcoming any storm and trial.

Following the leadership of the great leader and the great party that have built and are endlessly developing and completing our superior popular masses-centered style of socialism on the road of prolonged revolutionary struggle is our people's incomparable honor and happiness. Our party and people will always take to heart the belief that they will surely be victorious as long as the great party is in the vanguard, more highly uphold the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea and the militant slogan "Let us live according to our style," and continuously and resolutely march forward along the popular masses-centered socialist road.

KCNA Review of 16 Jul Pyongyang Press

SK1607055491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang July 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia, on the occasion of the day of victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War.

President Kim Il-song received a message from Flavio Cotti, president of the Swiss Confederation, in reply to his message of greetings on the "day of international relations" to be observed on the occasion of the 700th founding anniversary of the Confederation, says the paper.

Given in the paper is news that the great leader President Kim Il-song received a letter from the participants in a meeting of solidarity with the Korean people held in Guyana.

According to the press, works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported and deeply studied in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN dedicates an article to the fifth anniversary of the publication of the historical work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea".

It deals with the immortal feats performed by President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il in bringing about a new upsurge in agricultural production.

Conspicuous in the press are accounts of meetings of demobilized soldiers of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces to volunteer to toilsome branches of socialist construction.

Econews of the press includes reports that innovation has been effected in coal production and successes have been achieved in tending crops in the rural communities.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for an intensified mass technical innovation movement.

Dailies report about a national meeting held in Pyongyang to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of factory colleges.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the newly-released Korean documentary film "Eternal Companions", which portrays the proud sight of Korean intellectuals who trust, follow and remain faithful to the great party which gives them political integrity and helps them bring into full bloom their knowledge and talents.

Papers inform the readers that pictures of heroes who performed feats during the war were supplemented to the exhibits in the DPRK hero hall of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War museum.

The Burundian prime minister met a delegation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, according to the press.

It is reported in the press that the South Korean people denounced the authorities' separatist moves and the South Korean magazine MAL carried an article on the truth behind the "wartime host nation support agreement" imposed on the South Korean puppets by the U.S. imperialists.

NODONG SINMUN reports about war exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in an unbroken chain against the North.

In a review of the South Korean situation, the paper denounces the No Tae-u ruling group's anti-reunification acts behind the facade of "reunification."

MINJU CHOSON comments on the South Korean authorities' suppression on the families of patriotic martyrs including student Kang Kyong-tae.

The paper runs an article entitled "'Law on South-North Exchange and Cooperation' Is Product of Plot for Permanent Split".

The "international solidarity march for supporting Korea's reunification" started in different countries and an international signature campaign supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is brisk in many countries, according to papers.

Papers inform the readers that functions for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea were held in different countries on the month of anti-U.S. joint struggle (June 25-July 27) and a resolution on Korea was adopted at the tenth anniversary congress of international physicians for the prevention of nuclear weapons.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Egyptian president condemned the double-dealing policy of Israel and the general secretary of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua declared that his organisation would continue the struggle for socialism.

Resolutions demanding an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations were adopted at 1,077 local self-government assemblies of Japan, says the paper.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article entitled "People Will Advance Along Track of Independence, Road of Socialism" and MINJU CHOSON an article captioned "Removal of Nuclear Weapons Is Important Obligation Under Non-Proliferation Treaty."

South Korea

Ministry Reports on Pyongyang-IAEA Agreement

SK1607021591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0158 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea will initial a model agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Tuesday evening, a prelude to signing the full nuclear safeguards accord that will oblige Pyongyang to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection, the Foreign Ministry said.

North Korean officials at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, where they are negotiating on details of the agreement, have withdrawn their demand that an article be added enabling Pyongyang to nullify the agreement if nuclear weapons are not totally removed from the Korean peninsula and a nuclear threat against North Korea persists, according to the Ministry.

South Korea and the United States had criticized this demand as an attempt to bargain its obligatory signing of the nuclear safeguards accord.

North Korea is expected to officially sign the accord after it is approved in an IAEA Board of Governor's meeting in early September. The agreement takes effect immediately after North Korea completes the necessary domestic measures.

Meanwhile, a senior Ministry official, commenting on the development, said it was but a single step toward international nuclear inspection of North Korea.

North Korea, unlike South Korea, does not require special measures by its national assembly to put the safeguards accord into effect, the official said. It just requires the official approval of President Kim Il-song.

"There still is a chance that North Korea, claiming necessary domestic procedures, may delay or refuse outside inspection of its nuclear facilities," the official said.

He strongly suggested that the G-7 leaders, meeting in London until Thursday, will urge North Korea's unconditional signing of the nuclear safeguards accord.

"It is logical at this point for the G-7 members to express their common recognition and interest in North Korea's signing of the accord," he said.

Pyongyang, which signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1985, has been stalling for the past five years on the mandatory joining of the IAEA nuclear safeguards accord, which is required within 18 months of signing the NPT.

North Rejects Proposal for Reunification March

SK1607090691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea rejected Monday South Korea's proposal for a joint cross-border "reunification march" to mark the 46th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

"We will by no means accept the plot by the South to hold the march without patriotic forces," a spokesman for the Korean National Democratic Front was quoted as saying by NAEWOE PRESS, Seoul's official watcher of communist affairs.

Pyongyang, dissidents and radical students in the South and some representatives from the ethnic Korean communities abroad are preparing for a rally to be held in Seoul on Aug. 15, liberation day.

The unnamed spokesman also called the South Korean Government an "anti-reunification force" and demanded it free "patriotic" figures such as the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and student activist Im Su-kyong, give up the idea of one channel for dialogue with North Korea and scrap the National Security Law as conditions for the march and exchange visits by citiz[illegible] aged 70 and over.

Delegates to 27 Aug Inter-Korean Talks Named

SK1607055091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea has chosen its seven-member delegation to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks slated for Pyongyang on Aug. 27.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik will be accompanied by Kim Chong- hwi, presidential aide for national security and foreign affairs; Gen. Song Ung-sop, first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Song Han-ho, deputy unification minister; Kang Hyon-uk, vice economic planning minister; Yim Tong-won, chancellor of the Institute of National Security and Foreign Affairs; and Yi Tong- pok, special assistant to the prime minister.

The only faces from the previous talks are Kim and Yim.

Yi will serve as spokesman for the Seoul side.

The government will notify North Korea of the delegates soon.

Opposition, Party Leaders To Go With No to UN

SK1607091991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung and ruling party leader Kim Yong-sam may accompany President No Tae-u on his trip to the United Nations this fall, ruling Democratic Liberal Party floor leader Kim Chong-ho said Tuesday.

"If the two Kims attend the U.N. General Assembly together with president No, the world will know there is no dissension between the ruling and opposition camps in Korea when it comes to national reunification," Kim said.

He said it had not been decided if the two Kims would go on the same plane as No, who is tentatively scheduled to leave for New York on Sept. 22.

No invited Kim Tae-chung to visit the United Nations with him when they met earlier in the day at No's Chongwadae office. Kim told No he would decide after hearing party opinions.

"It is not proper if President Kim simply accompanies president No. The government's treatment of President Kim and his diplomatic role should be fully discussed before the trip," said Rep. Kim Yong-pae, floor leader of Kim Tae-chung's New Democratic Party.

South and North Korea are expected to become U.N. members on Sept. 17, when the General Assembly opens. North Korea has already filed an application and the South will soon follow suit.

No Tae-u Meets With Opposition Leader Kim

SK1607084991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung met Tuesday for the first time in more than six months to discuss issues ranging from constitutional amendment to the political timetable, including general elections.

"There is no change in my position, as I already clarified on May 28, most people do not want the parliamentary cabinet system and under such a situation amendment of the constitution cannot and should not be sought," a senior presidential secretary quoted No as telling Kim.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the meeting, Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, quoted No as also saying, "in the matter of amending the Constitution, the people's will is more important than that of the political community."

As Kim asked whether he was ready to consider rewriting the Constitution if the people came to want it, according to Son, No said, "if you solicit an agreement within the political bloc and a consensus among the people, then I will review the matter," No told Kim.

The meeting between the top leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the main opposition New Democratic Party lasted 75 minutes.

Kim called for general elections in April next year and for heads of local administrations in June, but No said the timing of the elections would be decided by the law and further debate was undesirable for political stability, Son said.

Election laws should be improved regardless of whether the politicians would try to make two-representative constituencies or keep the current system, No said.

"It is desirable that candidates have more chances to meet their constituents at rallies, on television and in newspapers," he was quoted as saying.

No said he would instruct the ruling party to increase state funding for political parties during election campaigns and change the managing system of political donations so that opposition parties could benefit more from it.

No invited Kim to accompany him on his journey to New York in September to attend the U.N. General Assembly to see South and North Korea acquire membership simultaneously. Kim said, "I personally hope to do so, but I have to ask my party for permission."

As Kim raised his long-standing proposal for inter-Korean exchanges between political parties, No responded negatively reasoning the inter-Korean situation was not ripe for discussing such politically sensitive issue.

"Because the matter of inter-Korean exchanges between political leaders or political parties is very sensitive, it is not the time to discuss visits to North Korea by leaders of the political parties," No said.

No said he would try to solve regional antagonism through more balanced personnel administration.

Kim told reporters after the meeting that he felt No might seek amendment of the Constitution if the conditions were ripe, but not on his own initiative.

"There is no change in our stance that we object to amendment of the Constitution to adopt a parliamentary system of government," Kim said.

Opposition Urge Clarification of Nuclear Presence

SK1607032091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Opposition lawmakers yesterday urged the government to clarify whether there are nuclear weapons in Korea or not, breaking away from the long-held policy of "Neither-Confirm-Nor-Deny" (NCND).

In a meeting of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs-National Unification Committee, Rep. Pak Chan-chong from the minor opposition Democratic Party asserted that it is not proper for an independent sovereign nation to blindly follow the NCND policy of the United States.

He said, instead of following the NCND policy, the nation should seek ways to sign an agreement with the surrounding powerful countries like the Soviet Union, China and Japan on a non-aggression pact.

Rep. Cho Sun-sung from the main opposition New Democratic Party also asserted the United States's policy of maintaining the NCND in the Korean peninsula is to ignore the sovereignty of the Korean people, when it admits the existence of the nuclear weapons in Europe.

Cho also called on the government to withdraw U.S. nukes from the nation, if they exist, arguing that they are not necessary even militarily only prompting the North into developing its own nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile Rep. Yi Su-in from NDP urged a deactivation of the United Nations Command and a transferal of commanding authority of the combined forces of the Korean and American army to the Korean side.

He also called for the replacement of the present armistice agreement with a peace treaty.

In response, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said that the armistice agreement cannot be altered until there is a permanent peaceful structure on the Korean peninsula.

Direct Shipping Routes to North Anticipated

SK1607011491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0052 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea is preparing to open regular shipping lines to North Korea in expectation of a surge in inter-Korean trade following simultaneous U.N. admission of the two Koreas this September, government sources said Tuesday.

In addition, the Seventh Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Program (1992-1996) will encompass an inter-Korean maritime agreement and shipping operations.

Likely routes are Pusan-Wonsan-Hungnam and Inchon-Haeju-Nampo.

If North Korea is reluctant to allow direct routes, it will be possible to sail via Japan or China, the sources said.

Trade beween South and North Korea was tallied at 78 million U.S. dollars in January-May, a 19-fold rise from the same period last year.

Soviets Seek Foreign Help To Build Pipeline

SK1607032991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] The Soviet Union has asked Korea and Japan to participate in creating an "ambitious" gas lines system linking Sakhalin and Yakut gas fields over 1991-2015 in an effort to develop Eastern Siberia and the Far East with their huge potential of gas, oil and other energy resources.

The so-called Vostok Program, incepted by Soviet relevant ministries, energy research institutes and business concerns, was proposed to the Korean government in June, officials at the Korean Ministry of Energy and Resources said yesterday. It covers a broad range of joint projects, which remain open to consortiums from around the world, to explore and exploit oil, gas, iron ore, titanium, coking coal and apatite in the Eastern Siberia and Far East regions.

The program could be summed up with the construction of a gas lines system connecting Yakut and Sakhalin gas fields with Korea and Japan, development of large-scale production and gas transportation of local consumers and for exports, creating infrastructure and settling social problems, the Soviet energy planner was quoted as saying.

The Vostok Program's first-phase 1991-'95 is focusing on the development of Sakhalin gas fields with a combined production estimated at 3.34 million tons annually, 1 million tons of which will be supplied directly to Korea through Komsomolsk.

The subsequent three five-year plans embrace the supply of natural gas from Sakhalin and Yakut gas tracks to North Korea (an annual 1.3 million tons), South Korea (6 million) and Japan (6 million) through Khabarovsk.

Total investments from 1991-2005 will amount to 28.2 billion rubles including exploration costs of 10.4 billion rubles plus $9.7 billion.

Ministry officials said the Vostok Program also intends to develop 42.7 million tons of iron ore, 8.7 million tons of bituminous coal, 400,000 tons of copper and 300 tons of tantalum.

Accord With USSR To Promote Tourism Signed

SK1607025591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—Steps to increase tourism between South Korea and the Soviet Union include an agreement July 8 between the Korea Tourist Association [KTA] and Intourist, the Soviet state-run tour firm, to consult on ways to promote tourism.

A KTA delegation led by Vice Chairman Yi Tong-hui visited the Soviet Union July 6-15.

In addition, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov and Cho Yong-kil, president of the Korea National Tourism Corp. (Kotour), met here Monday to promote tourism exchanges, a Kotour spokesman said.

Popov invited Korean firms to develop tourism in Sakhalin and to open hotels in Moscow, and Cho explained the situation of the Korean tour industry, the spokesman said.

Kotour opened a branch in Moscow on June 20 and will play an active role in acceleration of bilateral cooperation, he said.

Last year, about 4,000 Koreans traveled the Soviet Union and some 30,000 Soviets visited Korea. This compares with 27,000 Britons, a similar number of Germans and 18,000 French people, who visited Korea.

Kim Tae-chung To Travel to Soviet Union, Europe

SK1607083791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0823 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung will tour the Soviet Union, Germany and Poland in late August for about two weeks, a source at his New Democratic Party said Tuesday.

Kim hopes to meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev or Russian Federation President Borris Yeltsin during his visit to Moscow and will deliver a speech at Moscow university.

The top opposition leader will also meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Polish President Lech Walesa.

Kim asked President No Tae-u for government support for his trip during a meeting with the president Tuesday.

No Nixes Opposition Demand to Free Prisoners

BK1607100491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (AFP)—South Korean President No Tae-u Tuesday rejected opposition leader Kim Tae-chung's demand that political detainees be freed.

President No told the opposition New Democratic Party chief during a meeting that the matter should not be handled "politically," adding that "it is a national consensus that those who violated and wrecked law and order should be handled legalistically through fair trial."

He made the remarks when Mr. Kim asked for political detainees to be freed and the anti-communist national security law abolished, a press release from the presidential office said.

Meanwhile, the National Christian Council's (NCC) human rights committee announced that there were now 1,630 political detainees, including 833 students, 397 workers, 97 North Korean spies and 85 dissidents.

Of the detainees, 580 are hit by the national security law banning pro-communist activities, 258 by a law banning the use of firebombs, 245 for holding illegal anti-government demonstrations, 113 for conducting illegal strikes, and the rest for other reasons.

The NCC report said that the number of political detainees had increased steadily since Mr. No took office in early 1988, rising from 760 in 1987 to 849 in June 1989 and 1,159 in May 1990.

DLP Faction Touch Nerve of Kim Yong-sam Group

SK1607034291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 91 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Factional Meeting"]

[Text] Sunday's golf course meeting of eight senior lawmakers of the largest faction in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] or Minjonggye seems to have hit raw nerve of the party's two other factions, especially the one led by Kim Yong-sam or Minjugye which is eager to see Kim nominated as the DLP's presidential candidate.

The rare golf course gathering was organized by Minjonggye "care-taker" Pak Tae-chun and attended by DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan and Reps. Yi Chong-chan, Yi Cha-hon, Sim Myong-po, Yi Chun-ku, Yi Han-tong and Pak Chol-on who is currently the sports-youth minister.

Apparently mindful of the cold and vigilant eyes of the Kim Yong-sam faction, the participants tried to down play the meaning of their get-together as Kim Yun-hwan put it, "It was a gathering to instill harmony in Minjonggye as part of the efforts to firm up DLP unity."

Although the followers of DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam tried to attach little significance to the gathering they were watching to see what comes out of the gathering.

Kim Yong-sam's loyalists believe that Kim, who is the No. 2 man in the ruling hierarchy, has no competition for the DLP presidential candidacy in terms of political career and struggle for democracy.

They hope that President No Tae-u will pick Kim Yong-sam as the DLP presidential nominee to avoid bitter in-house competition around next February prior to the parliamentary elections.

Notable is that the meeting was held after a series of reports that about 20 legislators of the Minjonggye are showing signs of leaning to the Kim Yong-sam camp.

Reps. Pak Tae-chun, Yi Chong-chan, Kim Yun-hwan and Pak Chol-on are widely believed to be possible contenders.

In particular, Yi Chong-chan and Pak Chol-on have overtly opposed the idea of handpicking Kim Yong-sam, calling for a "free and fair" competition for the presidential nomination.

Rep. Pak Kwan-yong, who supports Kim Yong-sam, yesterday said, "There is no need to overestimate the meaning of the gathering."

Rep. Hwang Pyong-tae, one of Kim Yong-sam's 'chief brains' said, "In the golf meeting, I believe, President No's warning against in-house feuding over the nomination was passed."

Meanwhile, the minor faction led by former prime minister Kim Chong-pil also tried to appear uninterested in the gathering. However, they seemed to be prodded to consolidate factionwide solidarity.

Cho Yong-chik, spokesman of the Kim Chong-pil faction or Konghwagye commented, "Recently, it is a fact that the Kim Yong-sam faction is attempting to create a milieu as if the decision upon the presidential nominee has already been made."

Ministry Reports 15 Breakdowns at Nuclear Plants

SK1607022391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] A total of 15 breakdowns occurred in the nation's nuclear power plants from January-July 15 this year, according to a report submitted to the National Assembly by the Energy-Resources Ministry yesterday.

The report said this year's troubles in atomic power plants were almost similar to last year's set at 14.

There were eight cases of breakdown in Kori, Kyongsang-namto, where four nuclear units are in operation, followed by Ulchin (four), Yonggwang (two) and Wolsung (one), it said.

All of the troubles, however, occurred in the secondary island involving turbines and generators, posing no threat of radioactive leakage, the report said.

The largest portion of troubles has been caused by defective mechanical components and human errors.

Police Disperse Strike Workers, Arrest Unionists

SK1607023591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Suwon, Kyonggi-to—About 1,000 policemen charged into the Sam Yang Metal Co. here early Sunday morning to disperse workers who have been on strike for over two months.

Police whisked away 25 unionized workers including trade union head Chang Yong-yol, 31, and arrested nine of them on charges of obstruction of company business.

Unionist workers had staged a sit-in at the factory compound in Ansan City for the past 63 days, calling for wage increases and other fringe benefits.

Police also apprehended 12 other workers who had launched a protest in front of president Chong Wan-su's residence in Sangdo-tong, southern Seoul.

However, six workers including Pang Pong-su, 26, are continuing a sit-in on the top of a 38-meter-high water tank.

Police refrained from forcing them down from the tower out of fear that they might commit suicide.

Police persuaded them to end the sit-in after laying 120 mattresses on the ground below the tower.

The company is one of the nation's major manufacturers of stainless steel products as well as a defense contractor.

The trade union put forth a 95-point demand including a 28.3-percent increase in standard wages, only to face rejection from management.

As a series of labor-management negotiations were deadlocked, workers went on strike May 13, occupying the company restaurant and water tower.

New Group Formed To Bolster Labor Movement

SK1607020691 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] A "national coalition of labor-related groups," or Chongungnoryon, was launched yesterday with some 600 laborers and dissidents on hand with a view to "bolstering the fledgling labor movement in the nation."

At the inaugural rally held at a Seoul university, Chongungnoryon disclosed that "the organization would push ahead with the democratic labor union movement on an industry basis to overcome the limit of trade union movement on a company basis."

The top priorities of the coalition will be put on the stepping-up of support to labor unions, officials of the organization said.

Minister Promises Farmers Compensation on Opening

SK1607025391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 16 (YONHAP)—South Korean farmers will be compensated for losses caused by switching crops and other damage expected to follow the opening of the agricultural market, Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so said Tuesday.

Measures will be also worked out for retraining amd employing farmers and farm workers displaced by the opening of the agricultural market, the minister said.

Substantial opening was unavoidable because the Uruguay Round trade talks would be settled in a lump and any country that did not negotiate in any field would suffer worldwide criticism, Yi said.

If Korea refused to discuss the agricultural market, it would have to secede from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and this would bring harsh retaliation, he told a breakfast meeting of business leaders.

"Rather than refusing to negotiate, we should positively take part in settlement of the negotiations and benefit as much as possible," Yi said.

He said the government would concentrate its negotiating power on securing a long enough grace period for Korean industry to adapt to opening and on improving the export environment by revising antidumping accords and liberalizing the textile trade.

He asked the businessmen to cultivate competitive power as once the agreements of the Uruguay Round are implemented it will be difficult for the government to support businesses.

They should prepare to cooperate with foreign businesses on management and technology renovation, Yi said.

Burma

Rangoon Radio Reports Bird Nest Trade Case

BK1607041991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Excerpts] On 7 May 1991 naval gunboat No. 112 on patrol near Mali Island in Palau Township stopped and searched the motorized boat "Aung Myo Swe" and found aboard 15 M-16 cartridges and one M-79 projectile. The 15 crewmembers were arrested and interrogated.

Following interrogations carried out at the naval base, a search of the rocky cliffs, where the bird nest trade is carried out, yielded one M-16 rifle, 10 M-16 cartridges, one magazinee, one M-79 rocket launcher, three projectiles, one AK-47 collapsible rifle, two ordinary AK-47 rifles, 30 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, three magazines, and 60 viss [one viss equals about 1.6 kg] of bird nests hidden on the rocky cliffs of Mali Island where the bird nest trade was run.

According to investigations carried out by the National Bureau of Investigations in connection with the incident, it was found that the bird nest trade was being carried out on Mali Island in breach of the rules and regulations. U Lu Win alias Victor Lau, who won the tender for the bird nest trade on Mali Island and who is also joint secretary of the Organizing Committee of the Union Nationalities Development Party [UNDP] Tenasserim Division, had submitted only kyat 1.5 million on 25 March 1991 and had failed to come up with the remaining kyat 3 million of the first installment of Kyat 4.5 million in guarantee money—10 percent of the value as stipulated in the tender contract—by the deadline of 28 March 1991.

U Nan Nwe of the IBI Company and the Forestry Department made various arrangements and accepted the house at No. 144, Sanchaung Road, Sanchaung Township—belonging to the children of U Aung Gyi, patron of the UNDP—as a mortgage for the remaining kyat 3 million in guarantee money. A contract to that effect was signed on 4 April 1991 and the deadline for the payment of the guarantee was moved to 25 April 1991 for the rights over Mali Island.

Although he has the rights to Mali Island, U Lu Win harvested 208 viss of bird nests from Bird's Nest Cliff on Mali Island before the stipulated date for extracting bird nests. Of the harvested nests he illegally sold 56 viss to blackmarket circles in Mergui and Tavoy for Kyat 4.9 million. From these proceeds he submitted Kyat 3 million for the remaining guarantee money due to the Forestry Department through the Myanmar Economic Bank in Tavoy on 22 April 1991. He then illegally made arrangements with U Po Aung of the Tenasserim Division Forestry Department for transporting the remaining bird nests to Yangon [Rangoon] in breach of the rules and regulations of the Forestry Department.

U Lu Win then kept 185 viss of bird nests to be brought to Yangon on 24 April 1991 to the residence of U Aung Gyi instead of to the Head Office of the Forestry Department. On the same date a team from the Forestry Department confiscated the bird nests from U Aung Gyi's residence and took them to the Head Office of the Forestry Department. [passage omitted]

U Lu Win then got back the bird nests from the Forestry Department and kept them in U Aung Gyi's residence and contacted U Maung Kyay, U Aung Khaing, and U Tun Myint Naing of the Kokang Company through Daw Mu Mu Thein, member of board of directors of IBI Company and U Maung Maung. On 6 May 1991 U Lu Win sold to the Kokang Company 105 viss of white bird nest at the price of Kyat 151,200 per viss and 8.75 viss of discolored bird nest at the price of Kyat 40,000 and earned a total of Kyat 16.2 million.

Following investigation on U Lu Win's bird nest business, cash and objects connected with the case were again confiscated by the authorities concerned. [passage omitted] It was learned that U Lu Win, in the course of his bird nest trade, borrowed two AK-47 rifles, one M-16 rifle, one M-79 rocket launcher, and ammunition from Win Shi of Kyaukkar village in Palau and KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents in Ei Ei village in Palau for use on the bird nest island.

On 15 April 1991 U Maung Maung, secretary-2 of the UNDP Executive Committee and U Zaw Lin, member of the UNDP Executive Committee, visited Mali Island via Mergui in the company of U Lu Win and U Tin Tun. They found that U Lu Win and his security men were armed and were using weapons at Payabu Sakhan on Mali Island. Instead of restraining them from using weapons, U Maung Maung and U Saw Lin themselves used and tested the illegal weapons.

When U Maung Maung and U Saw Lin returned to Yangon they told U Aung Gyi, patron of the UNDP; U Kyaw Myint Lay, chairman of the UNDP; U Kyi Han, general secretary of the UNDP; and U Khin Nyo, member of the Executive Committee; that illegal weapons were being used in the bird nest industry and that extortion money has to be given to the KNU insurgents. It was reported that U Aung Gyi said that the use of weapons and the payment of extortion money were facts of life in such a business and said they should carry on with the practise. [passage omitted]

It was learned that U Hla Win contacted Di Min and gave Kyat 100,000 in extortion money to KNU insurgents in Ei Ei village in Palau before the trade started in early April 1991, and U Lu Win's wife, Naw Sein Hmwe alias Cynthia, UNDP People's Assembly candidate for Tavoy-2 constituency, gave further payment of Kyat 400,000 in late April 1991 to KNU insurents. Further payments of Kyat 550,000 in extortion money were given to KNU insurgent Hagale in Ei Ei village by U Sein Than and Saw Robert, and Saw Elday of the bird nest industry.

It has been learned that effective legal action will be taken under the Criminal Procedure Code against 28 persons involved in illegal harvesting and sales of bird nests before the stipulated time in breach of tender regulations for the bird nest industry, contact and payment of extortion money to KNU insurgents, and carrying of unlicensed firearms. Furthermore, effective action will be taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act against six public service personnel for taking bribes. Departmental investigations will be carried out on 17 public service personnel for permitting the trade in bird nests in breach of tender regulations and for violating norms of conduct for public service personnel.

Shan Council Expected To Choose New Leader

BK1407061891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Mae Hong Son—The United Shan Council [USSC] is expected to convene soon to choose a new leader following the death on Friday of its president, Mo Hein.

The date for the meeting of the USSC, the political arm of the Maung Thai Army [MTA] of drug warlord Chag Shi-fu or Khun Sa, has yet to be fixed, but will probably be some time after the funeral.

The president died from cancer. A religious ceremony is being held for him at a temple in the MTA's camp opposite Mae Hong Son.

Preparations are under way to make the burial the biggest funeral ever held by the MTA for a leader, said Pang Mai Soong camp commander Lt-Col Khun Duan.

MTA leaders began arriving at the camp yesterday.

Lt-Col Khun Duan said that traditionally the first vice-president automatically becomes president if his predecessor dies or resigns. But since the vacant position is the most important, a council meeting would be called to reaffirm the tradition. Khun Sa has assumed temporary presidency of the USSC. The USSC comprises several groups of armed Shan minority rebel groups with a combined military force of 7,500 to 10,000.

Lt-Col Khun Duan said he supports Khun Sa as president but the final decision has to be made by all USSC members, who are split on whether or not Khun Sa should become president.

The majority of Shan minority groups support Khun Sa as leader but some elements disagree on the grounds that Khun Sa, who is ethnic Chinese, is not of pure Shan blood.

"But this is not a big problem," said Khun Duan, adding the issue is under the leadership's control.

38 Sent Back From Thailand Fined, Jailed

BK1507152991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A total of 38 Burmese nationals, both male and female, including a 9-month-old baby, who had illegally entered Thailand were sent back to Kawthaung via Ranong, Thailand, on 11 July. They were sent back under the arrangement of the Thai Border Committee, which had contacted the Kawthaung Township Law and Order Restoration Council.

Officials from the Immigration and Manpower Department, the People's Police Force, the Army, and the departments concerned conducted a preliminary investigation of those who were sent back. In addition, a special task force formed by the Immigration and Manpower Department made a detailed investigation of the returnees.

In accordance with the findings, the returnees were charged under the Immigration Act. Of the returnees, a boy under the age of 16 from Launglon was lectured and released. Twenty-two each paid a fine of 1,500 kyat. The remaining 15 were each given 6-month prison terms since they could not pay their fines. [passage omitted]

Under a special program, the Health Department is testing the blood of all those who returned to see whether they are AIDS carriers.

Detailed investigations by different organizations reveal that the returnees entered Thailand illegally to reside there. None of them are abscondees from law or have links with insurgents. They were doing odd jobs, or were jobless or vagrants in Thailand.

Cambodia

Chea Sim Remarks on Beijing Talks, Settlement

BK1207141891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, July 12 (AFP)—Chea Sim, the second-ranked leader in Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnamese Government, said here Friday that the Khmer Rouge would not be excluded from a settlement to end Cambodia's 12-1/2-year-old war.

The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former radical Marxist ruling group, now forms the strongest guerrilla force fighting to topple the Cambodian Government.

But following watershed agreements last month Khmer Rouge representatives are to return to Phnom Penh as the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia's warring factions is headquartered by the end of the year in the Cambodian capital.

"This is very good," Mr. Chea Sim said in reply to questions by reporters on Khmer Rouge representatives returning to Phnom Penh for the first the time since the group, which is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths during its rule between 1975 and 1979, was driven from power by invading Vietnamese forces.

Mr. Chea Sim, like most of Phnom Penh's top leadership a former Khmer Rouge official who defected in the (word indistinct) months ahead of the group's fall, arrived here on Friday en route to Tokyo.

"The Khmer Rouge are part of the SNC, which is going to establish its headquarters in Phnom Penh," said Mr. Chea Sim, who is widely considered as a hardliner within the Phnom Penh leadership.

Mr. Chea Sim, who is both the number two man on the politburo of the ruling Communist Party and National Assembly chairman, is to leave for the Japanese capital on Saturday. He said he intended to hold discussions on "bilateral relations" during his visit at the invitation of Michio Watanabe, a leading parliamentarian in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

As Japan has shown willingness to play a major role in Cambodia's peace process, Mr. Chea Sim is the second top Phnom Penh leader to travel this year to Tokyo after Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. [passage omitted] Thailand's powerful Army Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun hosted Friday night a dinner in Mr. Chea Sim's honour.

Another meeting between the visiting Phnom Penh leader and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, which had been announced by officials here earlier, apparently did not take place.

Wants Trial for Khmer Rouge

BK1407021191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 91 p A3

[Text] The Speaker of Cambodia's National Assembly, Chea Sim, in Bangkok yesterday, reiterated Phnom Penh's stance of wanting to bring some Khmer Rouge leaders to trial and predicted that the meeting of all Cambodian factions next week in Beijing will not see much progress.

Asked if Phnom Penh would welcome all Khmer Rouge leaders back home, Chea Sim said leading Khmer Rouge leaders would have to face trial as that was the wish of the "Cambodian people".

"For the top Khmer Rouge leaders, we will make a trial. For others, we have to consider the matter," said Chea Sim through an interpreter. "We think the Cambodian people will want to see the Khmer Rouge leaders brought to trial, and we will have to consider it."

He, however, did not provide the names of the leaders targetted and was vague as to whether Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan and Commander in Chief Gen Son Senn would fall into the category. Both Khieu and Son Senn are members of the 12-seat Supreme National Council, formed last September by the tripartite resistance and Phnom Penh to signify a united Cambodia and its sovereignty.

"Son Senn and Khieu Samphan are also SNC members and they still seek a political settlement," to the Cambodian conflict, he added.

Chea Sim's statement revived Phnom Penh's dormant call to bring some Khmer Rouge leaders to justice for their past atrocities during the Khmer Rouge rule from April 1975 to December 1978, before being ousted by invading Vietnamese troops.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen proposed during the SNC meeting in Jakarta early last month the establishment of a Nuremburg-style tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide. The issue was not raised in the following meeting in Phatthaya which came up with an agreement on a general ceasefire and cessation of foreign arms supplies.

Emerging from his breakfast with Asa yesterday, Chea Sim said the SNC meeting in Phatthaya was a "positive" sign laying the groundwork for the upcoming meeting in Beijing.

However, he doubted if the informal talks in Beijing will produce much success as some of the council members will be absent from the forum, making the council unable to make a decision.

The SNC, which is a balance between the tripartite resistance and Phnom Penh, reaches decisions based on consensus.

"This (Beijing forum) is an informal meeting, so the result will be limited. But, it will pave the way for another meeting in Bangkok (tentatively scheduled for August)," he said. Phnom Penh is sending only three of its six representatives to Beijing, the first trip ever by Phnom Penh leaders to China, which is the patron of the Marxist Khmer Rouge.

In Beijing the SNC is expected to discuss several thorny issues including verification of the ceasefire and arms-shipment cessation as well as Phnom Penh's call for some amendments to the UN draft peace agreement. The latter issue was strongly opposed by the resistance.

During the talks yesterday, Asa responded to Chea Sim's call for Thai humanitarian assistance, saying that Thailand was willing to provide "humanitarian and developmental aid" to all Cambodian factions including Phnom Penh, according to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek.

Asa was quoted as telling the Cambodian guest that Thailand was ready to train Phnom Penh officials in the fields of agriculture and tourism. The assistance could take place while the Cambodian peace process was still going on, said Sakthip.

Chea Sim, number two in Cambodia's ruling politburo, and his four accompanying delegates were invited here for a one day official visit as guests of the foreign ministry. Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun held a welcome dinner for the Cambodian delegates on Friday.

They left yesterday for a four-day trip to Japan at the invitation of Michio Watanabe, a well-known Diet member from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Chea Sim's visit to Thailand provided an opportune time for Thai leaders to acquaint themselves with the person believed to be the most powerful man in Phnom Penh.

There have been frequent reports that Chea Sim and Hun Sen do not see eye-to-eye on ways to end the Cambodian problem. But both leaders have repeatedly denied any rift between them.

Hor Namhong Comments on 14 Jul China Visit

BK1207113091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, July 12 (AFP)—China will receive the Phnom Penh delegation to informal peace talks in Beijing on the same footing as the resistance teams and has invited them to return later in the month, a top official said here.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said recent peace breakthroughs between Phnom Penh and the Beijing-backed resistance had laid the groundwork for normalising ties with China.

He is to leave here Sunday with fellow members of the Supreme National Council (SNC)—Prime Minister Hun Sen and top ruling party official Im Chhun Lim—for Beijing via Hanoi and Nanning to attend informal talks with resistance SNC members.

The minister said in an interview he thought the informal discussions July 16-17 "could be substantial to prepare for the next SNC meeting (next month in Bangkok) because we are going there with a spirit of compromise."

He also said a watershed meeting last month in Phatthaya, Thailand had created a new atmosphere of confidence and trust among the four warring factions and settled the international aspects of the Cambodian conflict.

Phatthaya laid the basis "to go further in the direction of normalising and improving relations with China," he added.

It also paved the way for the unprecedented invitation to Phnom Penh to send a delegation to Beijing.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge for the first time agreed in Phatthaya to honour a permanent ceasefire, end overseas military aid and set up SNC headquarters here.

Mr. Hor Namhong said the Phnom Penh delegation would be guests of the Chinese Government July 15-20 as members of the SNC, before a two-day stay in Pyongyang with resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

They will return to Beijing as China's guests July 22-24, the minister said, adding that he was unsure whether they would hold bilateral talks with Chinese leaders.

"If it happens we'll explain our position to the Chinese side," he said, adding "our stay in Beijing might be an opportunity for us to say we have nothing against China and want friendship and cooperation."

Mr. Hor Namhong said the Khmer Rouge remained the main obstacle to improved ties but he thought the problem would eventually disappear.

The minister did not specify the agenda for the Beijing meeting, but he indicated that the thorny problem of monitoring the permanent ceasefire and arms moratorium would be raised.

Phnom Penh has said the United Nations cannot send a monitoring team here yet because the ceasefire is a voluntary pact among the rivals.

But it is ready for the dispatch a good offices mission and establishment of an SNC military coordination committee.

The Khmer Rouge has called for the dispatch of thousands of U.N. troops to monitor the truce.

Observers said the issue of rehabilitation aid might also arise. Mr. Hor Namhong said Phnom Penh favoured the introduction of such a programme although the Khmer Rouge had rejected it.

"We are prepared to listen to all subjects the other side will raise," he said.

It was unclear whether Phnom Penh's three main sticking points to accepting a U.N. peace plan—preventing a return to power by the Khmer Rouge and dismantling the armed forces and administration—would be raised.

But Mr. Hor Namhong said he believed the peace process was now irreversible, adding: "We are moving from a small road in the countryside onto the highway in the direction of peace."

Security Council Permanent Members To Meet

AU1207131491 Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] PARIS, July 12 (AFP)—Senior officials of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council will meet in Beijing July 18-19 immediately following a session there of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, the French Foreign Ministry said here Friday.

France and Indonesia, joint presidents of the Paris conference on Cambodia, will jointly chair the U.N. meeting. Also present will be U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's representative, Raffeudin Ahmed, Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said.

"The meeting will facilitate good coordination between what happens between the Cambodians (who meet July 16-17) and the five," Mr. Bernard said.

It was likely, he said, that the representatives of the five—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—would meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Cambodian resistance to the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government.

Phnom Penh Hails Hun Sen Trip, PRC Attitide

BK1607034991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "A New and Realistic Attitude"]

[Text] On 14 July, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], accompanied by Comrade Hor Namhong, foreigm minister of the SOC, and Comrade Im Chhunlim, deputy chief of the party Central Committee's cabinet, left for Beijing, capital of the PRC.

The main objective of this mission is to attend, as the SOC's members of the Supreme National Council [SNC], the unofficial meeting of the SNC to be held very soon before they leave together with Samdech Sihanouk for Pyongyang as guests of Samdech Sihanouk and in line with an agreement reached in Jakarta at the beginning of June between Samdech Sihanouk and Comrade Hun Sen. Moreover, at the invitation of the Chinese side, Comrade Hun Sen will return to the PRC for a three-day visit from 22 to 24 July side.

The Cambodian people and international public opinion have both expressed their warm welcome full of lofty optimism over this mission and this historic visit.

This is the first time that the SOC delegation will be present on PRC land. This is also the first time that the forum for the solution to the Cambodian problem will be held in Beijing.

People still remember well that in Phatthaya, the SNC—the organ symbolizing Cambodia's sovereignty—unanimously agreed to stop receiving foreign military aid, and on 27 June, Samdech Sihanouk also made an appeal calling on countries which provide military aid and which allow the transit of military aid to the Cambodian factions to stop all these activities. Therefore, the Cambodian people throughout the country are of the opinion that even though this SNC meeting in Beijing is not an official one and is just a preparation for the coming meeting to be held in Bangkok in August, it is a good opportunity for the Cambodian factions and the host country to seek deeper understanding from each other in order to advance toward consolidating mutual trust, which is also tantamount to paving the way for peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people would like to express profound (?solidarity) with the PRC, which has announced its readiness to help ensure that this SNC meeting achieves good results.

Moreover, the fact that the Chinese side has invited Comrade Hun Sen to pay a visit to Beijing constitutes a new and realistic attitude of the host country.

It is known generally that immediately after the SNC had taken up roots on 9-10 July 1991, the PRC announced that it would have equal contact with all Cambodian warring factions. This statement has come true now.

In the past, not only had the Cambodian people never regarded the Chinese people as their enemies, but they had also wished to restore the traditional bond of solidarity between the two peoples.

Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the SOC's National Assembly, solemnly declared once again during the 40th founding anniversary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party that the SOC is always ready to normalize relations with the PRC and wants these relations to be reestablished at the earliest possible date in order to promote the peace process in Cambodia, thereby enhancing peace, stability, and cooperation in the region and international arena.

It is in this regard that the Cambodian people would like to make a wish for this visit of the high-ranking SOC leaders to achieve brilliant success.

PRACHEACHON on Chea Sim's Japan Visit

BK1407090191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Jul 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "We Welcome Comrade Chairman Chea Sim's Visit To Japan"]

[Text] On 12 July, at the invitation of Michio Watanabe, member of the Japanese Parliament and a major Japanese political figure, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, led a delegation of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly on a visit to Japan.

On the way from Phnom Penh to Tokyo, during the stopover in Bangkok, Comrade Chairman Chea Sim (?was guest) of Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin. This was Comrade Chea Sim's first visit to Japan and Thailand. It is another major political event in the State of Cambodia's relations with Japan and Thailand. It is also a great event in the State of Cambodia's international political life.

Lately, because of its advantages on all fronts, particularly on the battlefield in the 1990-1991 dry season, the State of Cambodia has expanded its influence and control over nearly 100 percent of the people and territory. The world has welcomed and vigorously supported the State of Cambodia's desire to end the bloodshed and bring genuine peace and security to the Cambodian people. They welcome the goodwill and lofty spirit of responsibility that is clearly expressed in the implementation of a national reconciliation policy linked to Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and they particularly welcome the acceptance of UN control in solving the Cambodian problem.

At various international conferences, as well as at inter-Cambodian meetings, the State of Cambodia has always shown sincerity and a constructive attitude. It has put forward many initiatives aimed at actively contributing to the search for a just and proper solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with the Cambodian people's interests and aspirations. This has lead to the fine results of Phatthaya concerning the agreement to implement a cease-fire and a halt to the receiving of foreign military aid.

Realizing the actual situation—that cannot be hidden—in the State of Cambodia, many countries in the region and in the West, have successively sent their diplomats to establish relations at all levels with the State of Cambodia. It is certain that Japan and Thailand have greatly contributed to all of this. These countries recently made many (?diplomatic moves) that were useful as the basis for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

The Cambodian people are convinced and firmly believe that Comrade Chairman Chea Sim's current visit to Japan and his stopover in Thailand will not only further improve the State of Cambodia's prestige and its international role in the region and in the international arena, but will also make a further active contribution to the process of finding a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem; it will also enable public opinion in Japan and Thailand to have a deeper understanding of the real situation in Cambodia and to express sympathy and support for developments in Cambodia.

Remembering the good contributions made by Japan and neighboring countries, the Cambodian people would like to express their thanks and will remember the contributions for peace in Cambodia made by the UN Security Council [UNSC], the Paris international conference cochairmen, the UN Secretary General, and his envoy. The Cambodian people appeal to the other Cambodian side to genuinely, actively, and sincerely contribute to building peace for the Cambodian people, and in the immediate future, implement to the full whatever has been agreed upon in Phatthaya, and continue seeking to solve the remaining issues quickly.

Sihanouk: 'No Immediate Plans' To Visit Hanoi

BK1407050491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Bangkok, July 14 (AFP)—Former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk has no immediate plans to travel to Vietnam for talks but does not rule out a visit at a later stage, a statement issued by his office said Sunday.

The statement was in response to recent remarks by a Phnom Penh official that the prince, who has moved to become a mediator in Cambodia's 12-year-old war, could visit Hanoi later this month.

Despite an official denial earlier by the prince, "the question is not settled yet," Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong had said.

Sunday's statement said it had "already denied that such a trip would take place."

"In order to make the situation even clearer, the secretariat of His Royal Highness Samdech (Prince) Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia denies once again such reports," it said.

"This year, Samdech Sihanouk does not propose to visit the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," the statement continued, suggesting that a trip could take place at a later stage.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia 12-years-ago to oust the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, a radical Marxist group, and install a client government in Phnom Penh.

Sources familiar with discussions to end the Cambodia war said the deposed monarch had proposed during talks last month to travel soon to Hanoi with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The proposal was officially denied. It came, the sources said, during meetings in Phatthaya where Cambodia's warring factions reached unprecedented agreements on a ceasefire and a cessation of military shipments from China and Vietnam to their respective Cambodian allies.

Prince Sihanouk is currently in Beijing where he is to host another round of talks between the factions, with Mr. Hun Sen representing the Cambodian government.

The talks July 16-17 are to mark the first trip to China by the Phnom Penh leader.

He and Prince Sihanouk had announced that he was shortly afterwards to make a separate visit to Beijing for talks on Cambodia, but this was denied in official Chinese media reports.

VOK Reports on Upcoming SNC Meeting

BK1607080591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Dispatch from Beijing on the meeting to resolve the Cambodian problem by the station's editor in chief Pol Ham—recorded]

[Text] The working meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] is to be held in Beijing, China on 16-17 July. After that, the representatives of the Big Five members of the UN Security Council will also hold a meeting there starting from the afternoon of 17 July to discuss the Cambodian problem.

There is no explicit report yet about the SNC meeting's agenda. However, it is expected that the issues concerning the Cambodian SNC headquarters, the arrangement for the SNC meeting in Bangkok in late August, and the draft agreement on a peace plan for Cambodia will be examined.

The delegations of the three Cambodian resistance parties have already arrived in Beijing. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk hosted a reception at his residence in Beijing on the afternoon of 14 July for His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, and SNC member; Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and SNC member, and all the members of the KPNLF delegation.

In the meantime, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesman told foreign reporters in the Chinese capital city that China has allowed Hun Sen to come to Beijing to attend the SNC meeting in his capacity as a member of the SNC at Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's request. Hun Sen's trip to Beijing from 22 to 24 July will not be an official visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government. It is only—at the request of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—to facilitate his transit through China on the way from North Korea.

Observers in Beijing hope that this round of meetings, regardless of its appellation, will be an important conclave following the talks in the Thai city of Phatthaya and that it will be successful if Hun Sen's side further shows its sincerity to resolve the Cambodian problem.

VODK Insists on Installing UN Force

BK1307023891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "Holding aloft the banner of the Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom

Sihanouk in order to promote a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] The outcome of the recent Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phatthaya, Thailand is an enormous encouragement to the entire Cambodian people as well as the world. The outcome is evidence that a political solution to the Cambodian problem is significantly making headway as:

1. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has been elected as the SNC chairman, having the right to convene the subsequent SNC meetings with the aspirations of promoting a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

2. All have unanimously agreed to a cease-fire and nonacceptance of foreign military aid.

This means that the SNC has begun to function as the only legitimate supreme state organ that represents Cambodia inside and outside the country and is recognized by the United Nations and other international organizations of the world. This is a step forward to achieve a national reconciliation, meaning that the national reconciliation has taken shape with the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. The entire Cambodian nation and people welcome the great outcome. Friends all over the world also welcome and applaud the achievement.

The Cambodian people have suffered for nearly 13 years because of the war of aggression conducted by the Hanoi authorities. The suffering and devastation endured by the Cambodian nation and people are untold and terrible. As such, the latter are ardently longing to close the books on the war at the earliest date so they will be able to restore peace and independence, defend and rebuild the country toward prosperity as other countries in the world, and improve their own living conditions. This being the case, the Cambodian people have placed high hopes in the outcome of the SNC meeting and wish that the meeting will provide a concrete basis from which we can step forward to gradually settle the Cambodian problem via a political solution.

However, only a strong UN force with sufficient manpower is able to maintain and enhance the outcome effectively. Particularly, without strict UN verification, the issues of cease-fire and nonacceptance of foreign military aid can not materialize—no ifs, ands, or buts about it—because Vietnam and the Phnom Penh party, which used to ignore their agreements and pledges, will continue to encroach upon the truce and ship troops and armaments to Cambodia as before. As such, it is indispensable to have a UN force in the country carrying out supervisory and control tasks. The UN force, which could be composed of 500 to 700 staff at the beginning, will ensure the respect for the cease-fire and cessation of arms supplies in Cambodia to create conditions of mutual trust. Later, more human resources of the United Nations should be dispatched to the country until the number becomes sufficient.

Now as a big part of the problem has been successfully resolved, we should continue to hold aloft the banner of the SNC, presided over by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, striving to resolve the remaining issues one after the other in order to achieve genuine national reconciliation, unity, compromise, and progressively strengthening and developing the great national union without white, black, blue, or red. We should unite as a nation at present and in the future so as to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem in complying with the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council at the final stage. This is to allow Cambodia to become an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral country, with its territorial integrity intact, and with our Cambodian people definitely enjoying their rights to self-determination.

VODK: People Reject Phnom Penh Regime

BK1607072391 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian people welcome the Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and no longer want the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh regime"]

[Text] After hearing that the 12 members have given Samdech Norodom Sihanouk the role of president of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the right to set up the SNC headquarters in Phnom Penh, the Vietnamese aggressors' administration in all areas is shaking and collapsing morally and organizationally because:

1. The Cambodian people everywhere throughout the country, including those in Phnom Penh City, have voiced their warm welcome to the SNC and are waiting for the the SNC to set up its headquarters in Phnom Penh. They have gone out and are going out to call on their sons, husbands, and relatives who are serving as Cambodian soldiers and administrators to return home to live under the village, communal, district, provincial, and municipal national councils which are under the control of the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as president.

2. More Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and Phnom Penh administration's officials have deserted and are continuing to desert the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side. They believe that since the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has already been established as the legitimate state organization of Cambodia, there is no other state power except for this organization. This is because this SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk represents the Cambodian nation and people, both inside and outside the country and is recognized by the United Nations and the international community. Therefore, they do not want to serve the Phnom Penh regime and the Vietnamese aggressors any longer. They have thus returned home in order to join their wives, children, and relatives back home and stay with the village, communal, district, and provincial national councils under the control of the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk which is the legitimate state organization.

3. After the news that the SNC is due to have its headquarters in Phnom Penh spread, the value of the Phnom Penh side's riel currency has dropped sharply to the point that the people no longer want it. They have rushed to buy and stock up on things, such as gold, rice, paddy, and other valuable things. They have offered high prices for these things just to get rid of the riel banknotes in hand. This is because they believe that the riel banknotes will be of no value when the SNC takes up the power in Phnom Penh.

This signifies the collapse of the Vietnamese aggressor regime in Cambodia in the face of the influence of the SNC under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership. This also proves that the Cambodian people do not want the Vietnamese aggressors' regime in Cambodia. They want only the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk which is the legitimate state organization of Cambodia.

Dear Cambodian soldiers and state administrators who have not yet returned home: you should clearly see this collapsing state of the Vietnamese aggressors' regime and quickly disassociate yourselves from the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side. The entire Cambodian nation and people do not want the Phnom Penh regime installed by Vietnam. Why must you continue to serve the Vietnamese aggressors? Time has come for you to return to stay with our Cambodian nation and people. By so doing, you will be contributing to ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia which has lasted for nearly 13 years now and you will be able to survive as good people and not as traitorous puppets who are Vietnamese lackeys. The people, village, and communal national councils will always be waiting to welcome and give you assistance.

Japanese Delegation Received by Mat Ly

BK1407060091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0446 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 14—Mat Ly, vice chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly, received here Friday a visiting delegation of the Japanese Diet (National Assembly) led by Yoneo Hirata, MP [member of parliament] of the Komeito opposition party.

Vice Chairman Mat Ly, who is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, hailed the Japanese delegation's visit as an important event for the Cambodian people.

He also expressed warm welcome to Japan's role in the Cambodian issue, and his thanks for the assistance rendered by Japanese and other humanitarian organizations and friendly countries the world over to the Cambodians in restoring their country from the wounds of war and especially from the adverse consequences of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

In reply, Mr. Yoneo Hirata expressed his satisfaction at the all-sided development of the State of Cambodia and thanked the Cambodian Government for its warm hospitality towards his delegation.

The Japanese head delegate said the aim of his visit here was to study the reality in Cambodia and the possibility of providing Japanese aid to the Cambodian people following a political solution to the Cambodian conflict.

The Japanese delegation arrived here on July 11. It was the second delegation of the Japanese Diet to visit Cambodia this month. The first delegation came here on July 9.

Chea Sim Receives Lao, SRV Health Ministers

BK1207110591 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0420 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 12 Jul (SPK)—National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim received Vietnamese and Lao delegations in Phnom Penh on 11 July, who had been attending the fifth conference of the three countries' health ministers held on 8 and 9 July in the Cambodian capital.

The Vietnamese delegation was led by Pham Song, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and health minister, while the Lao delegation was led by Khambou Sounisai, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and health minister.

Chea Sim, who is also a member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, stressed that this conference was a manifestation of the consolidation of relations of solidarity, friendship, and multiform cooperation among the three Indochinese countries and the relations among parties, governments, and people of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos.

The Cambodian leader said it is necessary to strengthen these ties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

For their part, the visitors affirmed that they will do their best for development of the health sector of the three countries and for the strengthening of Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos multiform cooperation.

The Vietnamese and Lao delegations left Phnom Penh the same day. During their stay, they visited the National Museum, the Silver Monastery, the Cheung Ek mass graves, the "Bati" tourist site in Takeo Province, and the Angkor Wat temples in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

The theme of the fifth ministerial health conference focused on district hospitals in the primary health care system. The three countries' ministers agreed among themselves to, among other things, give priority to the fight against transmittable diseases; link community development work to that of hygiene, nutrition, drinking water, a clean environment, and so on; and to increase technical capabilities in the promotion of health education. They have decided to strengthen relevant multisector cooperation as well as the cooperation with mass organizations through education, information, and social activities, and the cooperation with international organizations aimed at achieving a common goal, namely health and development. The sixth conference is planned for 1994 in Hanoi.

Chea Sim Sends Thanks to UK Organizations

BK1607060891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0419 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 16—Chea Sim, chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, has sent letters of thanks to three organisations of Great Britain for their tireless efforts towards a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

His letters, addressed to the presidents of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, the Friends of Cambodia and the Britain-Vietnam Association, said: "I highly appreciate you and your organizations for the unreserved efforts to prevent the return of the genocidal regime, find a political solution to the Cambodian problem and promote the relationship between the peoples of Cambodia and Great Britain".

The letters wished the three presidents and their members the best of health and successes in their responsible tasks.

More Aid for War Refugees in Kompong Speu

BK1407075291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0430 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 14—Of more than 6,400 families of war refugees in six districts of Kompong Speu Province recently received 1,110 tons of humanitarian aid from three international ozganizations.

Those refugees, who have been resettled in refugee camps in the districts of Aoral, Phnum Sruoch, Thpong, Kong Pisei, Bar Set and Samraong Tong, were dislodged from their native villages by the Khmer opposition factions frequent harassments.

Of the volume the World Food Programme provided, the OXFAM [Oxford Committee for Famine Relief] and CARE organisations gave 60 tons of clothing, consumer goods and prahok (fish cheese).

Over 160,000 Ha of Rice Planted by 6 Jul

BK1607070291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] According to a Statistics Department report, by 6 July, peasants throughout the country planted and transplanted more than 160,000 hectares of all varieties of rice. This is 18 percent more than the plan. Compared to the same period last year, this is 9,000 hectares more.

Taking the lead in this production are Battambang, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.

VODK: Quick Dispatch of UN Forces Urged

BK1507065791 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Open letter from Cambodian people to the United Nations, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the international community—date not given]

[Text] We, the Cambodian people of both sexes and all ages, have been experiencing untold misery for the almost 13 years due to the Vietnamese aggressors' war of aggression and genocide.

During these years, more than 2.5 million Cambodians have been killed in a most tragic manner with Vietnam's bullets of all calibers, chemical weapons, man-made famine, and all kinds of torture.

Those alive have become refugees in their own country and have fled to take refuge in other countries, particularly Thailand, France, United States, Australia, and Canada, in the most miserable conditions. As for those in the zone temporarily controlled by Vietnam, the Vietnamese—both soldiers and civilians—are cruelly and barbarously oppressing, bullying, robbing, and forcing them into hard labor and to fight and die on their bahalf.

The misery and suffering of the Cambodian people during the past nearly 13 years are grave. This is why the Cambodian people want the Vietnamese war of aggression to end quickly so that Cambodia can regain peace, security, independence, and sovereignty and the people live peacefully, earn their living normally, and enjoy the right to self-determination.

Now that the Supreme National Council [SNC] members have agreed to let Samdech Norodom Sihanouk preside and convene future SNC meetings, and to observe the cease-fire and to stop accepting foreign arms aid, all Cambodians in joyfully welcoming this, see the possibility of a quick and comprehensive resolution of the Cambodian problem through political means.

Cambodians are happy seeing the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk working successfully and proceeding toward genuine national reconciliation and harmony. However, we believe there has been no genuine guarantee on the question of the cease-fire and cessation of arms aid. As a matter of fact, those living inside Cambodia have witnessed Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side's continued violation of the cease-fire agreement. Fresh troops and weapons are being sent to Cambodia, people's sons are being forcibly conscripted and sent to fight and die on their behalf, and provocations are commited to rekindle the war in Cambodia.

Therefore, our Cambodian people appeal to the United Nations to quickly send its forces to Cambodia, numbering at first 500 to 700 or 1,000 men, and to increase their number until there are enough to supervise Cambodia, including:

1. The withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces—military and civilian, and open and secret or disguised forces—from Cambodia.

2. The observance of agreements on the cease-fire, the cessation of foreign military aid, thus ensuring that no faction violates these agreements.

3. A free, fair, and democratic election in Cambodia after the Vietnamese withdrawal.

Without a UN force with the sufficient manpower and means for supervision in Cambodia, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors will certainly continue to hide themselves and carry on their oppression against the Cambodian people. As a matter of fact, they have not stopped their oppression and Cambodians continue to suffer at the hands of the Vietnamese and their agents. If this is allowed to continue, there will be no peace, security, and independence for Cambodia. Cambodians will continue to suffer, and the Cambodian problem will remain unsolved.

Therefore, the UN supervision is significant to the settlement of the Cambodian problem and will ensure that this process is carried out fairly and lead to a permanent solution.

The Cambodian people hope the United Nations will take measures to send its forces to conduct its supervisory role in Cambodia to speed up the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means in line with the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

VONADK: SRV Continues Attacks on Route 10

BK1607032791 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Jul 91

["Report from Route 10-Pailin Battlefield"]

[Text] The Vietnamese aggressors have relentlessly carried on their attacks against the Cambodian national resistance forces on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield even after the agreements were reached in Phatthaya. As a matter of fact:

1. On 11 July, the Vietnamese aggressors moved out of Veal Thom to attack the forces of our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in an attempt to seize Phnum Veng from us.

2. On 12 July, the Vietnamese aggressors moved out of Treng to attack our NADK forces in an attempt to seize (Phnum Nilen) from our forces on Route 10-Pailin battlefield.

3. In addition to these large-scale offensives, the Vietnamese aggressors sent out small groups of their forces to attack and spy on our forces in these areas.

4. The Vietnamese aggressors have sent more forces—both Vietnamese and puppet—to Route 10-Pailin battlefield.

Although these Vietnamese and Heng Samrin soldiers have kept launching activities, hundreds of them have fled back home. This is because these soldiers could not tolerate their superiors who have kept oppressing and bullying them. Moreover, they have learned that the process toward ending the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia is drawing near to its final stage, and the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has already been established. This Sihanouk-led SNC is the sole legitimate organization representing the Cambodian nation and people both inside the country and in the international arena. This Sihanouk-led SNC is accelerating the process toward ending the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia through comprehensive political means in line with the document dated 28 August 1990 of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Therefore, they want to return home to work and earn a living to feed their families and to stay with the village and communal national councils which are under the control of the Sihanouk-led SNC.

Laos

Agricultural Ministry Issues Antidrought Advice

BK1407094591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] On 10 July the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry issued an instruction concerning the drought taking place in the 1991 monsoon rice crop season to the agriculture and forestry services of all provinces, as well as the Vientiane Municipality. The instruction says:

The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry has learned from monitoring the meteorological changes until June that low atmospheric pressure of moderate strength is covering parts of northern Laos from Oudomsai to Phong Saly Provinces. At the same time, Vientiane and Luang Prabang Provinces have recorded unusually low rainfall, caused by the dry northwesterly wind. In the south, a low atmospheric pressure belt, coupled with southwesterly wind of moderate strenght, caused some rainfall. However, rainfall in many localities is below normal. Such changes in the weather can further prolong the current drought and affect both the country's agriculture and people's living standards. From initial estimates, it is anticipated that the production of this year's monsoon rice will be less than that of last year.

The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, therefore, issues this instruction to provide some technical measures to remedy the said situation as follows:

Pay continuous attention to the rice crop. Regularly eliminate weeds and pests to increase rice production. Make full use of the existing irrigation systems. Repair and enlarge irrigation canals, dig water ponds, use any available primitive tools , and use water pumps to fetch water to ricefields.

The sowing of early and medium rice strains in areas near water sources for the production of rice seedling can be delayed until 15 July. Borrowing rice seeds from neighbors is recommended to solve the immediate problem of seed shortage for some farmer families. Use water pumps and all other possible means to fetch water to rice seedling plots. Plant rice on all areas where conditions permit. Use appropriate fertilizer to boost rice production to compensate for the loss of rice crop in other areas. Conserve water and supress pests in a timely manner.

If there is no rain until late August, farmers are instructed to shift to the sowing method of rice cultivation. Early rice and medium rice strains are recommended. Preparation must be made for planting starchy crops such as maize, tapioca, taro, beans, and other industrial crops in the areas where conditions permit at the end of the season. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry has considable amounts of crop seeds in its reserve, and sufficient supplies of chemical fertilizer and pesticide. Technical cadres dispatched to all areas by the ministry and provincial administration are ready to provide technical advice for farmers. Preparations should be made from now on for the cultivation of dry-season rice so as to increase the cultivating areas, as it has been observed that many irrigated areas in previous years were not used for planting dry-season rice.

The agriculture and forestry services of all provinces are instructed to cooperate with all the sectors concerned in exploiting the potential of localities and turn them into collective strength to fight the adverse consequences of this year's drought. Any subsequent inconvenience and difficulties must be reported to the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry through regular channels.

More Instruction on Drought

BK1407120991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Jul 91

["Urgent instruction" issued by Political Bureau of Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers on 11 July on combating drought]

[Text] On 11 July 1991, the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and the Council of Ministers issued an urgent instruction to the party committees, administrative committees, and mass organizations at various levels in Vientiane Province and Municipality to urgently make preparations to direct and concentrate all forces on combating the drought and boosting the seasonal rice farming for 1991.

The instruction, which was signed on behalf of the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee and the Council of Ministers by General Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, says: The climatic conditions are now unfavorable for the main rice farming as a result of the prolonged, severe drought. At present, the amount of rainfall is not enough for farmers to do their main rice farming. Throughout the country, rice transplanting has been done only on 10 percent of the total rice-cultivation acreage. In Vientiane Municipality, where an irrigation system is considered to be the best and favorable conditions normally prevail, only 30 to 40 percent of the total acreage for rice transplanting has so far been completed.

To limit the consequences of the prevailing drought and combat it, the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee has instructed the Council of Ministers to issue urgent instructions to all provincial and municipal administrative committees, as well as to the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, to adopt concrete suggestions in the technical field aimed at concentrating all forces on combating the drought and boosting the main rice farming. The party committees of all provinces and the Vientiane Municipality are instructed to lead the administrations and mass organizations at all levels to encourage the people to launch campaigns to combat drought and boost main rice farming in a disciplined and effective manner, in accordance with the contents of the instructions of the Council of Ministers and the recommendation of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry.

The instruction also assigns the provincial and municipal party and administrative committees to vigorously strive to lead cadres ideologically and encourage them to the grass roots in order to help farmers to combat the drought and boost production in an enthusiastic manner. Simultaneously, they must train the people to maintain vigilance against schemes and acts of enemies who might take advantage of the difficult situation arising from the drought.

The instruction also gives details on responsible tasks for all ministries and equivalent organizations to fulfill together.

More on Antidrought Campaigns

BK1407131591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] This morning, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry held a meeting to organize its key cadres in various main provinces, such as Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Vientiane, Bolikhamsai, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, and Champassak, which are now facing severe drought. Participants of the meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry, discussed and unanimously agreed on measures to bring into full play the instruction of 11 July 1991 of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, which instructs all forces throughout the country to concentrate on combating drought during the main rice farming season this year.

Implementing the spirit and contents of the aforesaid instruction, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has urgently made arrangements for its leading cadres and technicians to direct the launching of the antidrought campaigns. A team of four cadres and technicians led by Sisavat Keobounphan has been assigned to guide the campaigns in Vientiane Municipality; a five-member team led by Noulin Sinbandit, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, has been assigned to Vientiane Province; a 16-member team led by Sian Saphangthong, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, has been assigned to Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, and Bolikhamsai provinces; a 10-member team led by Sitaheng Latsaphon, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, has been assigned to Khammouane and Savannakhet provinces; and a nine-member team led by Akhom Tounalom, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, has been assigned to Champassak and Saravane Provinces.

The meeting has also unanimously set up an active secretarial unit, comprising five members who are in charge of coordinating, collecting, receiving, and sending information on the situation about the antidrought campaigns, as reported to the ministry at various intervals by the cadres launching the campaigns in each province.

Antidrought Instruction Issued

BK1407092991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers yesterday issued instruction No. 09 on measures to counter the drought during 1991 production season. The instruction is as follows:

This year's monsoon rice cultivation has been facing numerous difficulties due to insufficient rainfall from the beginning of the production season. So far, only 10 percent of the total rice-cultivation acreage nationwide and only 30 to 40 percent in the well-irrigated areas such as Vientiane Municipality has been transplanted. Rice seedling [words indistinct] withering while rice crop on the highlands [words indistinct].

The Council of Ministers, therefore, issues this instruction for all ministries, organizations of equivalent status, and adminstrative committees in all provinces and in the Vientiane Municipality to exert all efforts to direct and organize the implementation of the following urgent measures to restrict the adverse consequences of the drought.

1. The Information and Culture Ministry is assigned to provide guidance and instruction for the cultivation of rice and crops; warn all sectors and people against the severity and adverse consequences of this year's drought; mobilize the people to join in the campaigns against drought and boost produciton; and provide instruction on rice cultivation, water usage, and other techniques deemed necessary to cope with the drought.

2. All effective measures such as renovation of irrigation canals must be applied to alleviate the water shortage problem. Farmers are encouraged to dig water ponds. All equipment and machinery as well as water pumps of both the state and private sectors must be used for the purpose. Material and financial resources must be mobilized to promote the cultivation of other starch and industrial crops, and to boost rice production in the well-irrigated areas of Vientiane Municipality, Vientiane, Savannakhet, Champassak, and parts of Saravane, Sayaboury, and Luang Namtha provinces. Farmers in each area are encouraged to help each other to fight the drought. Local administrations are instructed to provide rice seeds to farmers where rice cultivation is feasible. Starchy crops such as maize, tapioca, and others should be cultivated in the areas [words indistinct] to produce goods for the local market as much as possible.

3. The Finance Ministry is assigned to cooperate with banking organizations in providing loans to farmers' families under the approved agricultural promotion credit scheme. A budget will be allocated to the Trade Ministry to buy rice from foreign countries—as a reserve in case of a rice shortage—to regulate rice prices in the local market, and to buy small water pumps, fertilizer, fuel oil, pesticide, and other necessary materials. Another budget will be set aside to finance antidrought operations at the grass-roots. The Finance Ministry and Industry Ministry are instructed to work out a special rate of electrity to be used for irrigation and other agricultural purposes.

4. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is instructed to urgently dispatch technical cadres to the grass-roots to mobilize people to counter the adverse consequences of the drought, to promote production, and to provide technical advice for farmers [words indistinct]. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is instructed to urgently inform international organizations and foreign countries of the adverse consequences of this year's drought and request their assistance. The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is instructed to issue technical advice for the implementation of this instruction, to coordinate with the ministries concerned and all provinces in organizing the implementation of this instruction at all levels, and to prepare weekly reports to inform the Council of Ministers of the result of the operation.

2,980 Tourists Visit in the First Half of 1991

BK1507145391 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 13 (KPL)—The National Tourism Company of Laos under the Ministry of Trade and Tourism has over the last six months received over 2,980 foreign tourists visiting the country, said a marketing officer of the company.

The tourists were from Germany, Italy, the USA, Britain, France, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Japan, China, Thailand, Canada, New Zealand, India, and some other countries.

On monthly average, there were about 200 foreign tourists coming in, most visiting Luang Prabang and Vientiane.

For the second half of this year, more than 1,500 foreign tourists have already booked their tours to Laos with the company, the officer said, adding that the company is trying to attract more foreign tourists than in the first half of the year.

Philippines

Manglapus Says U.S. To Abandon Clark Air Base

HK1507120891 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] It is now confirmed that the United States will abandon Clark Air Base in Pampanga. This was stated by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus. According to him, and based on a statement by U.S. bases chief negotiator Richard Armitage, the United States is no longer interested in that military base. However, Manglapus said that the United States will not turn over Clark to the Philippines until it is repaired.

Discusses 'Compromise Agreement'

HK1607060791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 18

[Text] The U.S. government has decided to abandon Clark Air Base which was extensively damaged by the Mt.

Pinatubo eruption but will reconstruct the facilities on the base before turning it over to the Philippine government, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said yesterday.

Manglapus, who reported to President Aquino on the outcome of his one-on-one talk with special U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage prior to the resumption of the seventh round of Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (PACT) today, indicated that the compensation package proposed by the U.S. may have to be lowered considering the decision to give up Clark.

But he gave indications that the Philippines may be willing to extend the lease on the U.S. military facilities instead. There could be a "more extended way" of dealing with the matter.

A "compromise agreement" would have to be reached, considering the new reality which is the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, he said.

President Aquino has given Manglapus instructions to keep "closer contact" with members of the Senate in view of this development.

Manglapus added that some "outstanding" issues will have to be resolved, such as the status of forces agreement (SOFA) but expressed hope of a "meeting of the minds" and possible forging of a treaty.

The Philippines' stand before the Mt. Pinatubo eruption was for an $825-million annual compensation for the continued use of the bases for seven years after Sept. 16, the termination of the 1947 RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. The U.S. original offer before the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo was $360 million annual compensation for a 10-to-12-year duration.

Manglapus expressed hope anew that the talks, which resume today, will be the last round. The talks which aim to forge a possible treaty on the extension of the lease on U.S. military facilities and a broader relationship between the two countries, began nearly a year ago.

Manglapus said the U.S. has been "anxious" in helping the country in its reconstruction of Central Luzon by way of putting up a regional fund to concentrate in rebuilding. "We have assurances that they are not turning over Clark the way it is now."

Admiral Charles Larson, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, said the continuous eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the resulting ash buildup in Clark Air Base is of serious concern.

He met with President Aquino at Malacanang, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt and Rear Admiral Thomas Mercer, head of the U.S. Subic Base command. Several American agents provided them with tight security.

Also present in the meeting was Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Emmanuel Pelaez who noted that the U.S. and Philippine negotiating panels are expected to take into account the "new realities" posed by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in their negotiating positions.

Pelaez, who was ordered by Mrs. Aquino to come back for the resumption of the seventh round of Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (PACT), cited the need for flexibility on both sides.

Noting the closure of some 30 domestic bases in the U.S. in view of a huge budgetary deficit and the post-Cold War scenario, Pelaez said the American congressmen are questioning the retention by the U.S. government of overseas military facilities.

Denies Asking U.S. for Repairs

HK1607050491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0400 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus clarified today the alleged agreement between the United States and the Philippines to be reached in the next 48 hours.

The secretary also denied that he has said anything about the Americans having to repair the damaged Clark Air Base prior to its return to the Philippines. The secretary said that he is hoping that an agreement will be reached and that the changes following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo are being discussed.

Manglapus also added that his departure for Kuala Lumpur this week for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Conference should not be considered as setting a deadline for reaching an agreement.

In a related report, Senator Ernesto Herrera today assailed the absence of assurance for the future of workers in Clark Air Base in the ongoing Republic of the Philippines-U.S. bases negotiations. The full report from Jojo Ysmael.

[Begin recording] Herrera vehemently criticized the past negotiations between the United States and the Philippines for indulging solely in compensation and duration, and for ignoring the issues concerning the workers.

Some 80,000 workers in the bases have no certain future in any agreement that may be reached on the bases. It can be recalled that U.S. special negotiator Richard Armitage indicated that the United States will drop Clark Air Base due to the great damage it incurred from the eruption.

Herrera also pointed out that a labor agreement separate from the bases treaty will not do the country any good. [end recording]

Senators React to Current Bases Negotiation

HK1607132391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Combined reports of Dick Synchangco of DZRH Unit No. 6; italicized portions in English]

[Text] Some senators are opposing the proposal of the United States for yearly compensation negotiation for the U.S. military bases in the country. This was known after the president met with some senators to give them an update briefing on the ongoing negotiation between the Philippines and the United States.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus gave a briefing on the status of his negotiation with Special U.S. Negotiator Richard Armitage. It was known that the United States will definitely give up Clark Air Base in Pampanga and will just have to negotiate for the Subic Naval Base.

Senate President Jovito Salonga said that he will call for a caucus to know the consensus of the senators regarding the possible agreement which may be reached between the United States and the Philippines.

Salonga said that the United States would like to give $200 million to the Philippines for a ten-year extension duration of their military facilities.

Senators Wigberto Tanada, Rene Saguisag, and John Osmena commented on the offer of the United States. Osmena stressed that the offer of the Americans is unacceptable for the use of their bases in the country. In an interview with Malacanang newsmen, Osmena stressed that...

[Begin Osmena recording] The proposal of the Americans *is that guaranteed compensation* is very clean [as heard]already, and the additional compensation will be negotiated each year. *And I find that unacceptable. What we are assured of is already very low and on top of that, we will be subjected to an annual process of mendicancy.* We will be begging each year. [end recording]

It is also being said that the country is very near to signing an agreement on the bases issue but the negotiation continues on the issues of compensation and duration.

In a related development, Senate President Jovito Salonga announced that the real position of the Philippine Government regarding Clark Air Base is for the American Government to give it up. The statement was made by Salonga during the inauguration of the provincial prosecutor's building in Rizal Province.

In relation to this, Salonga stressed that the government aims to get Clark Air Base from the Americans and just allow the Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City.

Meanwhile, Senator Aquilino Pimentel says that the Philippine panel should insist on advance payment by the United States should there be an extension of its bases stay in the Philippines.

In an interview with Andy Vital, Pimentel said that it would be good for the country if the United States can pay in advance so the government can use the funds for the rehabilitation of damages caused by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

This way, the Philippine Government will no longer collect from the Americans time and again. Here are excerpts from Senator Aquilino Pimentel's statements.

[Begin Pimentel recording] The payment of the Americans should be paid in advance, not year by year. For example, a three-year extension has been agreed upon. Then they should already pay the amount due for the three years, in advance. They should already pay so we don't have to wait from year to year and so that we can also use the money for rehabilitation. [end recording]

Church Groups Hold Peace Caravan Against Bases

HK1407051291 Davao City THE MINDANAO MIRROR BULLETIN in English 8 Jul 91 pp 1, 17

[By Ferdinand Balino]

[Text] Davao City—Church opposition to the continued stay of foreign military bases in the country after September this year was again affirmed here Thursday through a peace caravan while the country was observing the Filipino-American Friendship Day.

Bishop Delfin Callao of the Philippines Independent Church, a spokesman of the NCCP, [expansion unknown] said in an interview with MMNS [Media Mindanao News Service] that the holding of the peace caravan was aimed "to unite the churches in confronting national problems."

Callao singled out the U.S. bases as one of the problems in Philippine society, citing the nuclear threat, economic and military dependence, drug trafficking and prostitution as the evils spawned by the bases presence.

Asked why the caravan was staged on Filipino-American Friendship Day, Callao said: "We are not anti-American. We are anti-bases."

Callao said the caravan was also an expression of protest against a treaty extending the stay of the U.S. bases on Philippine soil.

During recent negotiations in Manila, the Philippine panel asked for an annual compensation of P [Philippine pesos] 825 million for a seven-year stay of the bases as against the P325 million a year offer of the U.S. for a 10-12 year extension of the bases.

The caravan which took a major city route before ending at the Rizal Park, was the culminating activity of a three-day ecumenical conference for National Survival, Sovereignty and Peace in Mindanao.

Some 200 church people of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Aglipay denominations including members of the Sisters Association in Mindanao and the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) joined the caravan.

Bases Conversion Plan 'Rethink' Suggested

HK1507094491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Time To Rethink Bases Coversion Plan"]

[Text] The other day, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Richard Armitage, chief U.S. negotiator in the bases talks, told him that Washington was considering abandoning Clark Air Base which has been heavily damaged by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, chairman of the House armed services' subcommittee on military installations, urged the U.S. government to abandon negotiations to renew the leases for Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, both of which have been damaged by the Pinatubo eruption.

It appears now, given the thinking in executive and legislative circles in the U.S., that the bases talks might just abruptly end, with the U.S. deciding to pull out of Clark and Subic, or at best retaining only Subic.

Many who think that the Philippines cannot live without the U.S. bases will doubtless react to news about their pullout with great lamentation, and will put on sackcloth and ashes. They will consider the pullout of the bases a major disaster, one that comes on top of the disastrous eruption of Mr Pinatubo.

But a sudden removal of the U.S. bases need not be a disaster for the country. On the contrary, it can be an opportunity for putting on the fast track plans for the conversion of these bases to alternative uses.

The Comprehensive Bases Conversion Plan drawn up by the Joint Legislative-Executive Council has been approved by President Aquino. the plan calls for the conversion of Clark into a civilian aviation complex which will house an international airport. The plan also envisions the transfer of the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to Clark and that of the Philippine Navy to Subic. In view of the prediction of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology [Phivolcs] that Mt Pinatubo will be erupting for three years, the bases conversion plan may have to be revised.

But in the meantime, once the ashfalls and the mudflow have petered out, other plans for the conversion of Clark and Subic to agricultural, commercial and industrial uses can be immediately carried out.

Already, the news on the agricultural front is encouraging. For instance, Raul Mirasol, executive direjctor of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, who returned to Manila yesterday from an inspection tour of a barangay in Capas only 23 kilometers from the volcano, reported that only 15 percent of the crops have been damaged. He said the ashfall seems to have benefitted farms, particularly mango, guyabano and calamansi [citrus fruit] orchards. He said volcanic debris in many upland areas has been washed down by rains brought by typhoons "Diding" and "Etang" and thus the farms can be cultivated again. And contrary to the claim of government agriculturists that the ashfall has made the soil acidic and unproductive, recent tests have shown that the soil has become neutral, meaning it can allow absorption of either organic or chemical fertilizer by plants. Once the situation returns to normal, farmers can return to their farms and shift to hardier, higher-value crops, Mirasol said.

Even in places covered by thick ashfall, the situation is not entirely hopeless. The Bureau of Plant Industry says that land with about one foot of ashfall can still be plowed and planted to root crops like camote (sweet potato) and legumes. And even if the soil were acidic, the Bureau of Plants says pineapple can tolerate it. Deep plowing can make land covered with about six inches of ash fit for planting in a month's time.

The Clark area could be used as the center of the furniture export industry of Pampanga, which could earn millions of dollars for the country.

In the three-year period that the Phivolcs expects Mt. Pinatubo to continue spewing ash, construction industries could be set up in Clark. The volcanic ash could be used as one of the principal materials for the making of hollow blocks, bricks, cement and ceramic products. This has been proved feasible by preliminary tests made by the Department of Science and Technology, as well as by private companies like Bacnotan Cement and Hi-Cement.

And if the U.S. goes ahead with a plan to pull out of Subic also, the Philippine government could carry out its plan to transfer the Navy headquarters to Subic. Or it could convert Subic into a free port of export processing zone and tourist town.

The sudden pullout of the Americans from Clark and Subic, if it does occur, need not be a cause for despair. Of course, there will be temporary dislocations and unemployment and other difficulties. But let us have faith in our ability to solve our problems and prevail over temporary difficulties. The pullout of the U.S. from the bases can yet help us rise, figuratively and literally, from the ashes of Mt. Pinatubo.

Editorial Urges Fair Conclusion to Bases Talks

HK1607073991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Jul 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Eighth, Hopefully Last Round of U.S. Bases Talks"]

[Text] United States chief negotiator Richard L. Armitage arrived yesterday and if things went as scheduled, he inspected the damage at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

Unlike any of the previous seven rounds, the talks have a new dimension—a smoking Mount Pinatubo, just roused from its slumber of more than six hundred years. It is a fact that when Clark Field and Subic Base were established, Pinatubo had yet to be identified as a volcano. In the global registry of volcanoes kept by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, Pinatubo was not listed as late as 1981.

In his arrival statement, Armitage stated that because of Pinatubo, the future of Clark Field is questionable. He stated that the estimated cost of reconstituting either or both of these facilities (Clark and Subic), as well as the time involved, promises to be considerable. There is also the potential for further damage from mudflows and floods, especially in the case of Clark which is flanked by huge concentrations of ash. Clark's outlook is further clouded by continuing emissions of ash from Mount Pinatubo that may pose a serious hazard to aviation.

The new uncertainty is unfortunate for both the Philippine and the American sides. On the part of the Philippines, the impact of volcano damage, particularly on the residents of Angeles City and Olongapo City and their environs, could be compounded by the outcome of the bases negotiation. On the part of the Americans, the eruption could mean a need to reassess overall defense strategies.

It may be useful to note that: (a) Japan and Germany, both countries that are politically and economically strong, still allow U.S. bases on their territories and (b) the U.S. is closing down even domestic military bases and individual states are actively lobbying to maintain what bases they have as a means of ensuring continued employment and economic activity.

Previous rounds have been announced as "final" only to adjourn for yet again another round. Continued delay can only mean the continued uncertainty that keeps both foreign and domestic long term investments on hold, pending the final conclusion of the bases agreement. Such delay only contributes to lower economic growth, employment and income.

Whatever the outcome is, we urge all concerned to reach an agreement this time, fair both as to size of rental payment and length of the agreement, in order that everyone can plan accordingly.

Offering Extension of Bases Period Opposed

HK1607072891 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 16 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Duration of Bases Stay Should Be Non-Negotiable"]

[Text] Has the Philippines been stampeded into signing a new bases treaty? Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus' announcement early last night that an agreement will be signed "within 48 hours" suggests that this was the case.

After talking one-on-one with chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage for just over one hour, Manglapus was rushing to Malacanang to tell President Aquino he had a treaty in his pocket. Its principal features include: (1) the pullout of the U.S. Air Force from Clark Air Base, with the U.S. undertaking rehabilitation work before it is turned over to the Philippine government; (2) the U.S. will keep Subic Naval Base which will be expanded to accommodate the facilities at Crow Valley and the target range previously located inside Clark.

Manglapus has yet to reveal how long he has agreed to let the United States keep Subic and for how much. But if earlier statements by officials on both sides of the negotiating table could be used as the gauge, then the United States got what it wanted—a longer stay at a lower cost.

On his arrival yesterday, Armitage spoke of the "new realities" emerging from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. He said the future of Clark has become "questionable" and U.S. legislators have been asking about the wisdom of "spending large sums of money for military facilities in the shadow of an active volcano halfway around the world" while shutting down three dozen bases in the United States itself. What he was leading up to was that the United States should be paying a lower compensation for its bases in the Philippines.

Earlier on Friday, Manglapus signalled that the Philippines was willing to be more accommodating to the United States. While saying the Philippine position on duration and compensation—seven years for $825 million a year—he also allowed that these demands "would have to be weighed in the light of all factors and conditions surrounding the present situation." [sentence as published]

Perhaps it is too late in the day to tell Manglapus to keep true to his pledge. But if no deal has been cut yet, he should consider sticking to the old position of the panel. For it the United States feels it must pay less because it is giving up Clark, the urgent need to rebuild the areas damaged by Pinatubo and provide jobs for the hundreds of thousands it has displaced requires the government to spend more than it can afford.

But if the administration must absolutely moderate its compensation demand to look more reasonable in the eyes of the American legislators and public, it cannot invoke the same reason for lengthening the stay of U.S. forces. A seven-year period is more than enough for the United States to look for alternative sites for its naval facilities. It gives us time enough to rebuild from the ruins of Pinatubo and prepare for the pullout of U.S. troops. And it is much too long a time to finally realize our deepest aspirations—to be free from dependence on the U.S. economically and in matters of defense and security, and, therefore, to be rid of its meddling in all aspects of our national life.

Pinatubo and all the natural calamities we are heir to have nothing to do with these goals. And their final achievement should not be postponed anymore.

Prospects for, Uncertain Utility of Clark Viewed

HK1607065391 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Clark Will Be Wasteland Without U.S."]

[Text] U.S. Chief Negotiator Richard Armitage arrived yesterday for what should be the final stage of the tortuous and disaster-laden bases talks.

The indications are that the U.S. will abandon Clark Air Base should the Philippines hold on to its position granting a seven-year extension period for the base and demanding a compensation package in the vicinity of $825 million annually.

The cost of rehabilitating both bases—Clark particularly—appears too high for the U.S. to absorb. Add to this problem the uncertainty of the future utility of the U.S. Air Force facility in the light of Pinatubo's continuing activity.

The only way to reverse American disinclination to make further investments in Clark is to concede to a long and cheap extension period. The extension period that shall make rehabilitation costs worthwhile for the Americans shall be far longer than any ever considered during the protracted negotiations process.

Even a generous offer from the Philippine side might not suffice to convince the U.S. Congress that additional budgetary outlays to repair Clark and Subic are worthwhile. The utility of both bases was declining even before Pinatubo intervened. New weapons systems, a changing global political reality and adjustments in American strategy have made their Philippine bases grossly expensive utilities.

It will be much harder now to convince U.S. legislators that it is necessary to close mainland military bases and spend instead on the two forward facilities on Philippine territory. With the uncertain utility of Clark and Subic, those who favor investments in repair and large outlays for compensation will be more than hard pressed.

The ejection of U.S. forces from Philippine soil due to the combination of volcanic activity and budgetary constraint will be an empty victory for Filipino nationalists who have taken the bases as symbolic of our national subordination.

If the Americans do not have the money it takes to rehabilitate their facilities, neither do we.

The bases conversion plan painstakingly drawn by the Legislative-Executive Bases council is now material for the trash can.

The alternative uses of Clark Air Base as an aircraft repair and maintenance facility and eventually as a high-tech industrial site for manufactures transhipped through the airstrip are obviously premised on the functionality of the airfield. The private investments expected to come in and push the conversion process forward will not likely be attracted to the prospect of sinking their money in an area that is prone to mudflows and sudden eruptions.

Pinatubo has been extremely unfavorable to the essential premises of the conversion plan.

The conversion plan also envisaged submitting the outlying flatlands and lowland areas to the agrarian reform program. While these areas, in the aftermath of the eruption, could of course still be subject to reform, they could hardly be imagined as agrarian over the next generation.

It is, of course, conceivable that with an obsessively nationalist political leadership, our government could scrimp and scrape and tax in order to raise the money to invest in rebuilding the Clark facility and producing an industrial estate in the middle of an ash desert. The cost shall be staggering and the benefits will likely be small.

Given an economic condition where scarce funds could better be used elsewhere to the benefit of much larger populations with better returns on the investment, it will not seem wise to devote our own funds to rebuild Clark in the foreseeable future. The prioritization of this devastated airfield over other regions with severe needs for infrastructure and economic investments could not be rationally justified.

The prospects for Clark specifically are quite clear: if the Americans go the place shall be a wasteland and Angeles a ghost town for a long time to come.

If they choose to pull out of Subic as well, Dick Gordon himself will probably go job-hunting in Makati.

The pullout will surely aggravate the effects of the natural calamity. But we have little means to control the pragmatics of the situation and little means to alter the basic features of a devastated regional economy.

Even if the Americans turn over their facilities to us lock, stock and barrel, we shall have no immediate use for them. That is the usual irony that accompanies calamities of grand proportion.

Manila To Lose Aid if Taiwan Accord Nullified

HK1507081091 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Jul 91 pp 1, 9

[By staffmembers Elizabeth Perez and Bert Castro]

[Text] The country stands to lose at least $200 million in financial assistance from Taiwan if Malacanang nullifies the controversial fishery agreement recently signed between the two countries.

"We might be forced to forego Taiwan's contribution to the Philippine Assistance Program this year if we reject the agreement," a high-ranking government official who was part of the local negotiating panel told the CHRONICLE over the weekend.

Apart from this, huge trade investments will also be lost if the agreement did not push through, the official said.

"Taiwan has a trade surplus of around $73 billion right now, and they are investing everywhere," the official explained. "Kaya lang, dito medyo konti ang investments nila dahil na rin sa restrictive laws natin." [but they only have a few investments here because of our restrictive laws]

Meanwhile, Justice Undersecretary Eduardo Montenegro reiterated that the agreement is defective, discriminatory and violated the country's "one-China" policy.

Montenegro, who headed the lawyers' group in the Philippine negotiating panel, had declined to join the body in its second round of negotiations in Taipei.

He told the CHRONICLE that the delegation chairman, Assistant Executive Secretary Roberto Lucila, seemed to have exceeded his authority in sealing a sealane contract with Taipei without first consulting Manila.

Besides, Montenegro said, the most advisable way to solve the problem could have been through a "unilateral declaration by the Philippines of the sealane without making the privilege exclusive to Taiwanese fishermen."

But the ranking official disputed Montenegro's statement and claims by commercial and small fishermen's groups that the country had "sold out" to Taiwan regarding the sealanes.

Moreover, the official said that if the agreement succeeds in getting President Aquino's nod, Taiwan may be expected to start investing "seriously" in local industries.

"Kung mga $500 million lang. Kayang Magtapon dito ng Taiwan. [Taiwan can throw us even $500 million] if only to show other countries that their Asian neighbors recognize them as a nation independent of mainland China," he added.

The official also explained: "Taiwan will be allowed to pass, and not to fish, on these sealanes. Should Taiwan desire to conduct fishing operations in our waters, then they would have to enter into a 60-40 lease agreement with the government, the way Canada and Japan are doing now."

He reiterated President Aquino's earlier statement that the fishing accord did not violate the country's "one-China" policy.

"Our instructions were clear from the very start—we should not do anything to compromise our national sovereignty," the official said. "Kaya lang, gipit na gipit layong lahat ngayon—nakakahinayang kung pakakawalan natin 'yung tulong na kaya nilang ibigay sa atin." [however, we are in severe crisis-and it's a shame to let go of the help they can give us]

The official said that part of the agreement calls for Taiwan to donate five fishing vessels to the Philippines.

WB Urges Adopting Argentine Privatization Tack

HK1607103691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and the Export-Import Bank of Japan are likely to agree to co-finance a jumbo economic recovery loan (ERL) for the Philippines, totalling between $800 million and $1 billion, sources at the Department of Finance said yesterday.

The loan is intended to bankroll politically difficult economic policy reforms currently being undertaken by Government. A World Bank [WB] memorandum identified these reforms as:

—development of the capital markets and further liberalization within the banking industry;

—liberalization of the trade regime through an elimination of import quotas and a reduction in tariff rates as embodied in a new Executive Order 413;

—further reforms of the tax administration system so as to increase and improve collection efficiencies;

—liberalization of foreign investment rules; and

—policy reforms in the energy, transport and shipping industry.

Appraisal Mission

An appraisal mission is due to arrive between September and October. Negotiations might be completed by the end of the year. Disbursement is expected in the first quarter of 1992, the source said. The WB and the Asian Development Bank are also participating in the financial package.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao earlier said: "The multilateral agencies have agreed on the principle that they can provide support for reform initiatives that we have already taken but obviously this will take some time."

Several Packages

The $1-billion ERL is only one of several financial packages being readied by the OECF. Recently, it concluded the $859-million 17th yen loan package for the Philippines while the 18th yen is now being negotiated.

In the case of Japan Eximbank, the source said negotiations are still ongoing. What is being proposed, he said, is that the cancelled $300-million tranche of the $600-million debt-reduction program under the Brady Initiative be rechanneled to the ERL. The $600 million is part of Eximbank's parallel financing of the International Monetary Fund's extended fund facility (EFF).

Japan Eximbank earlier had to cancel the $300 million because of Government's failure to meet key economic targets under the original EFF last year.

Reinstatement

The bank's Philippine representative Kazunori Umeda has indicated that Eximbank will reinstate the remaining $300 million for as long as a medium-term program is in place. Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. said a team is currently drafting the medium-term program. He expects this to be completed within the next two months.

A medium-term program is necessary because Eximbank funds are meant to provide medium-term financing for the Philippines.

The source pointed out that the possibility of Eximbank's reallocating the debt-reduction loan for the ERL becomes greater should the current 18-month standby arrangement with the IMF be extended. The extension of the program was a condition imposed by the Paris Club so that the rescheduling of debts would cover $1.5 billion in Philippine debts or those falling due up to December 1992.

So far, Japan is the country's biggest source of financial assistance. Between 1986 and 1990, Japan accounted for 33.1% of total official development assistance loans and grants of multilateral and bilateral agencies.

'Confidential Documents' Cited

HK1607083991 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 16 Jul 91 p 2

[By Reporter Ma. Certrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The World Bank [WB] is urging the Aquino government to adopt the Argentinian approach in privatizing state-owned enterprises.

Confidential documents obtained by The Chronicle revealed the WB wants the sale of big-ticket items to be based on a bid with a fixed price plus a variable amount of government papers.

WB mission chief Claudio Fermandez said the use of government papers by the private sector to buy state assets has proven successful in Argentina.

The Argentinian approach, he said, is especially ideal for five government corporations (GOCCs) [Government-owned and controued corporations] the Aquino government has committed to sell in the next two years: Philippine Associated Smelter and Refining Corp. (Pasar); Philippine Phosphate and Fertilizer Inc. (Philphos); Semirara Coal Corp; North Davao Mining; and Metro Manila Transit Corp.

The government plans to rehabilitate them to make them attractive to private investors.

The country is negotiating with the WB for a $500-million loan which will be used to buy back at huge discounts the debt burdens of the five GOCCs in the secondary market.

The use of government securities is among the recommendations of the WB mission which arrived in Manila last month to discuss the terms and conditions of the $500 million loan, the documents showed.

The World Bank said the finance department should obtain adequate approval to commit the national government to assume the foreign liabilities of the five GOCCs.

Finance officials said the five corporations have an outstanding foreign obligation of at least $1.6 billion.

The national government will also have to negotiate with the creditors of the five GOCCs to buy their debts at the secondary market. Some of the loan agreements entered into by the five GOCCs may have clauses which prohibit debt buy-backs, another finance official said.

The WB also recommended that government assume the foreign liabilities of the five GOCCs only at the time the GOCC sale is completed.

It also insisted the proceeds from the sale of the GOCCs to first compensate the government for assuming the debt.

The remaining amount from the sale, if any, would be distributed among existing shareholders, the WB said.

The World Bank recommended that the buy-back of foreign loans to be done by the Philippine Privatization Fund (PPF) which will be established late this year.

It said it anticipates probable delays in the valuation of the shares of the GOCCs when government assumes their debts.

Investors Asked To Invest Before 1992 Election

HK1607084791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 6

[By Leticia Perez]

[Text] Investors and corporate executives should not hold back until after the 1992 presidential elections.

Economic prospects are bright, with the economy growing in real terms within 7-9% between 1992 and 1996, or a yearly average growth of 7%.

This was the overall assessment of Bernardo Villegas, senior vice president of the Center for Research and Communication [CRC], as he painted an optimistic picture that the next president of the country will not veer away from the present economic policies of the Aquino government.

But still, Villegas said, investors and corporate executives should take a close watch on the unfolding developments with regard to the foreign debt, agrarian reform, bases negotiations, the energy supply and the quality of future government leaders.

"It makes little sense, indeed, for any investor or chief executive officer of a private firm to take a wait-and-see attitude or put everything on hold until after the results of next year's elections are known," Bernardo counseled corporate executives in a CRC mid-year briefing paper.

"The economic trends that will shape in the next five years (1992-1996) started falling in place during the second quarter of 1991 and can be expected to intensify in the medium term," Villegas said.

These trends, Villegas said, began with the consumer-led recovery resembling that of 1987-1989. This will be followed by investment-induced growth from 1992 onwards.

"Whoever is elected President of the Philippines in May 1992, I expect the economic policies that have significantly contributed to the country's recovery to continue to be in place," Villegas said.

"It is highly unlikely that anyone among the 10 to 12 'presidentiables' will introduce any drastic change in the market-oriented reforms that to set the record straight, were initiated by the team of former Prime Minister Cesar Virata in 1981," Villegas stressed.

Though the new president will be bogged down by correcting two major macro-economic imbalances—the budget and the external account deficits—the economic environment will be very much improved from the present one.

Villegas said more liberal foreign investment policies are expected in the coming years. "The new Foreign Investment Act—coupled with a more stable political environment and improved infrastructure in such regions as Calabarzon, Metro Cebu, Southern Mindanao—can create a more hospitable climate for foreign investments."

Other plus factors for the investors and corporate executives are the implementation of a simplified tariff structure and a more liberalized financial system.

Despite the reluctance of Congress to pass the local autonomy bill, the trend points to greater decentralization of economic activities away from the National Capital Region.

Villegas said the agricultural sector will post remarkable growth in the next five years. Agriculture, he said, can grow by an annual average of 4%, a performance that will easily be rated above-average for food production anywhere in the world.

The industrial sector will also post a strong performance, with a yearly average growth of 7.5%.

"Poised for a strong recovery after 1992 is the construction sector: it can grow at an annual average of 14% from 1992 to 1996, especially as the government accelerates implementation of projects funded by the Philippine Assistance Program and as more private sectors, both local and foreign, take advantage of the build-operate-transfer scheme," Villegas said.

Private construction will also surge, with annual growth rates projected at 15% per annum.

Personal consumption expenditures will be growing at an annual 5%, Villegas said.

Aquino 'Prefers' De Villa as Defense Secretary

HK1607090691 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Jul 91 p 3

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino really wants former Armed Forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa to be the new defense secretary, Speaker Ramon Mitra said yesterday.

Mitra, who met with Mrs Aquino in Malacanang, said the President told him she prefers De Villa because she is "comfortable" with him even as she admitted that other candidates are still being considered.

But Mrs Aquino was reportedly informed of the strong opposition in Congress to De Villa's appointment.

Criticis have questioned the political neutrality of De Villa, who reportedly has been recommended by outgoing Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

They added that the post of defense chief requires mainly management expertise and not necessarily military skills. They have suggested Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez and National Security Director Rafael Ileto as successor to Ramos, who is stepping down to pursue his bid for the presidency.

Although Ileto himself came from the military, his long stint as civilian official is believed to have sufficiently insulated him from politics within the military.

Possible Exploitation of Mass Rally Viewed

HK1607090291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 6

[By Booma Cruz and Manny Mogato with Lito Zulueta and Corrie Narisma]

[Text] Military and police officers warned yesterday that the Iglesia ni Kristo [INK] leadership's apparent determination to proceed with INK's planned protest rally next week to demand a rollback in oil prices "might create a confluence of events and destabilize the country."

Officers who attended a security meeting in Camp Crame explained that extreme right- and left-wing elements will try to exploit the situation arising from INK's planned mass rally.

"It's not just a coincidence that (militant) labor groups are staging a Welgang Bayan [Nationwide Strike] and the INK refuses to change the date of its rally," a senior army officer who attended the meeting told the Chronicle.

From the looks of it, the lines are now drawn as President Aquino also remained firm that there will be no rollback in oil prices as demanded by the INK and militant labor groups.

Businessmen expressed alarm at the situation and warned that the protest actions will negate the benefits of the oil-price reduction and the import levy cut.

Raul Concepcion said such moves will only reinforce the perception among local and foreign investors of the country's political instability as compared with its Asean partners.

Asean is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"It will result in postponement of plant expansions and new investments at a time when unemployment is at its highest," he said.

Welgang Bayan organizers blamed government intransigence for their "irrevocable" decision to push ahead with their planned protest actions as civilian and military officials made last-ditch attempts to dissuade the INK from proceeding with their own rally, scheduled for July 22 to coincide with President Aquino's State-of-the-Nation address at the opening of Congress' fifth regular session.

Mrs. Aquino herself sent a personal message to INK head Erano Manalo to call off the planned protest action, said Speaker Ramon Mitra.

But she nevertheless stood pat on her decision against a rollback in oil prices to their pre-Dec. 5 levels.

In a statement read for her by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III the President maintaind she would rather be realistic than popular.

She insisted there will be no oil-price rollback until a buffer has been built up for the Oil Price Stabilization Fund. "Only with a financial buffer can we protect ourselves from sudden increases in the world price of oil," the President said.

She added: "Although I realize that this is not a popular stance, we have to do what is best for our people, even when it is difficult and unpopular."

This "intransigence," as labor leader Crispin Beltran put it, has left workers with no choice but to take to the streets.

"People cannot be blamed for taking to the streets if their demand for a rollback in oil prices has largely fallen on deaf government ears," said Beltran, chairman of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

At the same time, police and military officials met to review and assess the security situation as well as discuss measures on how to cope with the protest actions.

"We realize the enormity of having to control a big crowd like half a million people," said Maj. Gen. Gerardo Flores, intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police. "That is the reason why until now we have been appealing to the INK leadership not to push through with their plan."

He said two senior PNP officers belonging to the INK will be assigned as liaison officers to help police the ranks of Iglesia protesters.

Mobile and stationary police patrols will be intensified, in addition to the establishment of checkpoints, to prevent the outbreak of violence during the protest rallies, Flores said.

Reports are that INK and organized labor, led by KMU, will hold separate protest rallies on July 22. INK will hold its rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio, while KMU and other labor as well as cause-oriented groups will converge at Mendiola.

According to Flores, they were checking on reports that the INK rally is politically motivated, considering that some of its members were found to have "strong links" with Marcos loyalists in previous coup attempts against the Aquino government.

But INK officials, in a press statement, denied that politics is behind the sect's planned protest action. It also lamented the hardline stance taken by newly appointed Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon on the rally.

"While President Corazon Aquino publicly called for a continuing dialogue between officials of her government and the INK on the issue of oil-price rollback, Secretary Drilon unnecessarily imputes transgression into governmental affairs of the Iglesia ni Kristo by its simple appeal for a reasonable and substantial oil-price rollback," INK spokesman Bienvenido Santiago said in the press statement.

"If Secretary Drilon was quoted correctly, then he was overreacting to a simple INK rally, which has been carefully planned to be no more than a public appeal through the exercise of constitutional right to peaceably assemble for redress of grievance. Secretary Drilon's uncalled-for remarks could have been addressed to other political dilettantes," he added.

Earlier, Drilon questioned the INK's planned rally, invoking the constitutional provision of separation between the Church and State.

Aquino Urges Stricter Gun Control, Vigilance

HK1507122191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] President Aquino today called for stricter gun control in relation to the occurrences of crime in Metro Manila. She said she has ordered the Philippine National Police to tighten its issuance of gun licences and be alert on the peace and order situation in Metro Manila. She also called on the public to be vigilant in fighting crime and to cooperate with the police in stopping crime. There has been a spate of violence in Metro Manila recently like the bloody killing of the Vizconde family and the shooting of an U.S. diplomat's son. [as heard]

RAM Said Suspected in Manila Bank Explosions

HK1607025091 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Two big explosions occurred early this morning in Metro Manila. The first was in Metrobank on Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City and the second was in BPI [Bank of the Philippine Islands] in Governor Forbes, Manila. The authorities suspected that elements of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] are responsible and that the RAM has planned to launch a new coup d'etat. Several minutes after the explosions in the two banks, the police from the Central District captured Corporal Edwin Balag, a RAM member. Central Police District Chief Colonel Romeo San Diego said the bombings of several banks in Metro Manila may trigger the beginning of a series of similar events which may occur after the beginning of the nationwide strike.

Authorities Arrest Bomb Suspect

HK1607131791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] A suspect identified as Army Corporal Edwin Palad was arrested by the authorities. The suspect is reportedly on a test mission prior to his acceptance as a member by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Palad was said to have been arrested near the Metrobank and was identified by a witness. He is now being interrogated at the Central Police District's [CPD] main office under the orders of CPD Chief Romeo San Diego.

AFP Chief of Staff Downplays Bombing Incident

HK1607132991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Jul 91

[By Gaby Cruz and Fernan Imberga, Unit 22]

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia downplayed this morning's bombing incidents on two banks in Quezon City and Sampaloc, Manila. According to the chief of staff the incident can be compared to a small firecracker and will not immobilize the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In an ambush interview in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, where Abadia welcomed the arrival of resigned Secretary Fidel Ramos, he announced that Gringo Honasan is the symbol of disunity in the military. Abadia added he wants a 100 percent unity in the military.

[Begin Abadia recording in English] I look at Gringo as the symbol of disunity in the Armed Forces. I want an Armed Forces that is 100 percent united. I do not like a 99 percent. I do not even want a 99.9 percent. I want a 100 percent. [end recording]

The chief of staff is hopeful that renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan will surrender soon.

NPA Officials Said To Face Subversion Charges

HK1407053491 Davao City THE MINDANAO MIRROR BULLETIN in English 8 Jul 91 pp 1, 17

[By Al Josol]

[Text] The Investigation Division of Davao Metrodiscom [Metropolitan district command] filed over the weekend subversion charges before the City Prosecutor's Office against 42 top ranking officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) including a German national.

Charged for violation of Republic Act 1700 as amended by Executive Order No. 276 for subversion were Eduardo Quitoriano alias Kikoy, Jose de Vera alias Ogie, Purita Licayan alias Bebang, Rhodora Alfafara-de Vera alias Joy, Elveria Ansingco alias Maricel, Prudencio Calubid alias Ding/Simon, Salvador Bas alias Boning/Karyo/Oca/Buddy; Amado Payot alias Bensar, Hans Kaapf, a German national; Antonio Cabanatan, Jimmy Prejoles, Herminio Lavinia, alias Love/Fermin; Lodevico Gonzales, alias Argo/Kim; Aurora Bisunia, alias Lilay/Wewa; Carlos Fajardo, alias Richard and 25 other John Does.

Salvador Bas whose real name is Romulo Torres Bas, was arrested Friday in Cebu City.

P/lt.[Police lieutenant] Jose Alfelor, chief of the Investigation Division of Davao Metrodiscom, filed the information sheet before the City Prosecutor's Office after all available documents have been prepared by Police Officer 2 Bobby Casinio, investigator.

All of the charged top ranking rebel personalities are members of the Mindanao Commission, Southern Mindanao Regional Party Committee (SMRPC) of the CPP/NPA.

The evidence against the accused were gathered from two ranking officials of the CPP/NPA who surrendered to the authorities and executed their respective affidavits where they stated the top ranking personalities of the CPP/NPA.

The affidavits were executed by rebel surrenderees Alex Pagdilao and Roberto Bustamante who were ranking officials of the CPP/NPA before.

NPA Leaders Surrender, Offer Help to Police

HK1607101191 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 10 Jul 91 p 6

[By Willie Labawan]

[Text] Brig. Gen. Manuel Salimbangon, PNP [Philippine National Police] Regional Director of RECOM Region XI revealed yesterday the two CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] officials operating in Davao del Norte and North Cotabato voluntarily and willingly surrendered in two separate days.

Salimbangon said the two surrenderees were identified as one Mario Galvez alias Dondon and a certain Commander Adan whose real name is Rogelio Pagdilao.

Galvez who is the 2nd vice commander of Mindanao Force operated in Front III in Tagum Davao del Norte surrendered to Col. Ricardo de Leon of Tagum Provincial Command last June 30, 1991, while Commander Adan through the intercession of Mayor Victorio Suaybaguio of Tagurn has surrendered the other day, July 8 to Col. De Leon, PNP Provincial Commander of Tagum Davao del Norte.

Salimbangon revealed to this paper that Commander Adan is the ranking official of CPP-NPA front 53 operating in North Cotabato particularly in Pres. Roxas, Makilala, and Magpet. He was the secretary of the said front, Salimbangon added.

According to Comdr. Adan he surrendered because of the difficulties they had faced in the mountains, his men were scattered because of the massive operations of the members of Philippine National Police (PNP) and troopers of the Philippine Army in North Cotabato.

Salimbangon said according to the official report reaching his command Commander Adan went back to Tagum which is his homeplace just to surrender and sought the assistance of the provincial chief executive and said he is now willing to help the government campaign against insurgency, Salimbangon stressed.

The two surrenderees are now in the hands of PNP custodies by Col. De Leon of Tagum Regional PNP command.

"The CPP-NPA is now in disarray in fact they are having a hard time in the mountains especially for food because their financial support coming from other sources has been stopped, that's why they have resorted to committing robbery and banditry and sometimes even killing innocent civilians in the process," Salimbangon pointed out.

On the other hand the PNP Regional Commander of Region XI urged those misguided brothers who are still in the mountains that this is now the time to come down to the folds of law.

He stressed that they (the CPP-NPA) can even take advantage of the National Reconciliation Development Program (NRDP) of the government and change for the better now while they have still the chance.

The massive operations being conducted by the military and PNP in Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, and even in Surigao Sur is an indication that their life in the mountains will become worse, Salimbangon said.

NPA Leader Surrenders in Northern Mindanao

HK1507043691 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] One of the top leaders of the New People's Army [NPA] in Northern Mindanao has surrendered to the government. The said leader was identified as Junie Coquilla. He is responsible for ambushing military and police in his area of responsibility in Northern Mindanao.

According to the said NPA leader, most of his members are already planning to return to the lawful fold and he offered to help convince them initially by way of his surrender.

Military Firepower Deters MNLF Threat in Jolo

HK1507065291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Jul 91 p 12

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] A military official based in Jolo, Sulu has expressed optimism that the Muslim separatist rebels in Mindanao will eventually end their armed struggle and instead air their grievances through legal and political channels.

Col. Antonio Villamor, 3rd Marine Brigade commander, told Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia during a command briefing at the Marine Brigade headquarters that leadership intramurals, economic difficulties and the government's superior firepower have become deterrents to the resurgence of the violent activities of the Muslim secessionists.

Furthermore, the ceasefire which took effect on 1986 between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) is still holding, Villamor added.

In case the Moro rebels commit any ceasefire violation, Villamor assured that the military has already identified their hideouts in the mountains that would allow government troopers to stage an attack any time.

"We are not initiating attacks because of the truce," Villamor explained. "The situation is not like in the 70s when the Muslim rebels reigned supreme, killing Christians almost at will."

"But the military at present has more sophisticated weaponry with better trained troops," he said.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member-nations, which used to provide support to the MNLF, has also withdrawn its assistance to the secessionist rebels, it was reported.

Maj. Gen. Gumercindo Yap, Southern Command (southcom) chief, echoed Villamor's assessment on the declining threat from secessionist rebels, adding that the communist insurgency has remained the most potent threat in the region.

Thailand

Commerce Ministry Secures Rice Sale to Iraq

BK1607094491 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 16 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] According to a source in rice trading circles, a team of five Thai rice exporters led by Commerce Ministry Inspector Norarat Suwan visited Iraq 4-12 July and was successful in selling 45,000 metric tons of 15 percent white rice. In addition, the team also sold 600,000 metric tons of the same kind of rice to Iraq at the CIF [cost, insurance, and freight] price of U.S. $302 per ton for delivery by the end of 1992. Payment for this sale will be in cash. The exporting firms for this amount of rice were: Kaset Rungruang, Thana Phonchai, Khao Chaiphon, Saeng Thong Kha Khao, Huan Chuai Kha Khao, Kit Phon, Ruam Khao Siam, and Nakhon Luang Kha Khao. Iraq still owes these firms for previous purchases.

The source says a contract has already been signed for this unprecedentedly large rice sale and that the whole amount reportedly will go to an Iraqi rice organization. The first delivery of 45,000 tons will be made in July-August. The price of the 600,000 tons of rice will total about 4,584 million baht. If the price of the first contract is included, the amount would be 4,928 million baht.

The source says: "This is the biggest contract ever; the previous biggest contracts were in the 2-300,000-ton range." The contract should result in a slight increase in the domestic rice price because it is a long-term sale.

Ministry Names New Ambassador to Baghdad

BK1307013691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has named a new ambassador to Baghdad and has sent officials to Iraq to explore trade opportunities, Ambassador at large Dr Pratyathawi Tawethikun announced yesterday.

The new envoy, Mr Chirasak Muthitaporn, will leave Bangkok for Baghdad July 20 to take up the post.

Dr Pratyathawi said the decision to reopen the embassy in the Iraqi capital is to maintain the country's interests in Iraq. The embassy was closed late last year after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

He went on to say that Thailand would continue to sell rice to Iraq because it is Thailand's largest market in the Middle East even though Baghdad is yet to settle a debt, amounting to 1,700 million baht, with Thai rice exporters.

However, the Iraq ambassador to Thailand has pledged that the debt would be paid.

Increasing Burmese Border Trade Reported

BK1507143791 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Within the past 2 years, trade along the Thai-Myanmar [Burma] border has been increasing steadily, with trade volume topping 2 billion baht last year. A Board of Trade report says that bilateral trade has been on the rise both in volume and in value. Prior to 1989, border trade amounted to 200 to 300 million baht a year. In 1989 Thai-Myanmar border trade was recorded at 1 billion baht. The figures of 1990, meanwhile, have showed that border trade doubled to 2 billion baht in value. The report says that Thailand mainly imports timber from Myanmar, with Thai private firms granted logging concessions from Myanmar authorities. Timber accounted from 90 to 95 percent of imports from Myanmar. This year border trade tends to rise further as a double-fold rise was seen during the first 5 months of this year.

Consumer goods from the People's Republic of China have challenged Thai goods in the Myanmar market.

Cambodian Return to Mekong Committee Supported

BK1207134391 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] As a result of the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phatthaya 24-25 June, which assigned Prince Sihanouk as SNC chairman to send a letter to the director of the Central Mekong Office requesting that it accept Cambodia back as a member of the Mekong Committee, Prince Sihanouk has submitted the letter. As a consequence, the Thai Mekong Committee held a meeting on 10 July concerning the matter. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Police General Phao Sarasin and also attended by the committee's vice chairman—the science, technology, and energy minister; the deputy foreign minister; the deputy finance minister; and other committee members representing other agencies concerned.

The meeting approved the request of the SNC chairman to rejoin the Mekong Committee it left in 1977. The meeting assigned Praphat Premmani, secretary general of the National Energy Authority, as the Thai representative to the Mekong Committee, to convey to the director of the Central Mekong Office Thailand's decision and to welcome the return of Cambodia to the Mekong Committee. The foreign minister will send a letter confirming the Thai Government's decision at a later date.

Satellite Assistance Offered for Sea Surveys

BK1507072691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Statement by Sa-nga Sapphasi, minister of science, technology, and energy, to Radio Thailand; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The National Research Council has carried out space research for 20 years. It uses U.S. as well as French satellites in natural resources surveys. Japan has offered to assist in the use of the Mos-1 satellite for sea surveys. The council secretary general left yesterday to sign an agreement on space-aided surveys and development with a national space development institute of the Japanese Government. Tentatively, the agreement will cover three years, with Thailand receiving Japanese assistance in setting up a receiving station and personnel training. There is already a receiving station at Lat Krabang, but its equipment will be modernized to collect space data, particularly data for use in sea surveys. Council personnel have been working with U.S., Canadian, and French space agencies after studying for doctorate degrees abroad.

Sunthon Orders Moslem Leader Back to Bangkok

BK1607012791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jul 91 p 6

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has ordered that Sorayut Sakunnasantisat, the alleged Shi'ite Muslim leader of a violent protest in Pattani last year, be sent to Bangkok immediately after his extradition from Malaysia, an Army source said yesterday.

The order was given to the Fourth Army, which was working out details with top Malaysian officials for the extradition of Sorayut, who was arrested in Malaysia on Friday, the source said.

Sorayut, alias Mo Ding, allegedly called for the establishment of an Islamic Pattani State during a violent demonstration at the controversial 17th-century Kruze mosque in Pattani in June last year.

"Malaysia is likely to take legal action against him for illegal entry. We have been informed that Sorayut would be repatriated after Malaysian authorities complete their investigation into the case," the source said.

The Fourth Army has been monitoring Sorayut's movement for nine months before tipping off Malaysian police to arrest him.

Sorayut has also been charged with lese majeste for allegedly criticising the Thai monarchy at the protest rally during which a top provincial police officer was injured by demonstrators.

The extradition would probably take place at the Chang Lone border checkpoint in Sadao District neighbouring Malaysia's Alorstar state where Sorayut was being detained, the source said.

Asked if the Malaysian government was expected to cooperate, a security source said Thai-Malaysian relations had been strengthened over the past year and he saw no reason why Malaysia would not cooperate with Thailand on this matter.

Meanwhile, in Pattani, a provincial Islamic committee member yesterday called on Malaysia to speed up Sorayut's extradition.

"We all know what Malaysia has been doing in the past regarding our security problems. This issue would prove Malaysia's sincerity towards our country.

"If she considers us her close friend, then she should extradite him without any delay," said Nilek Sulaiman, who is also a member of the Islamic Central Committee of Thailand headed by the Chula Ratchamontri, the supreme leader of Thai Muslims.

He said it was "amusing," to hear that Malaysia wanted to take legal action against Sorayut for illegal entry since hundreds of local Thai Muslims crossed the border illegally daily and thousands of them were working in Malaysia.

"We have to keep a close watch on this because I feel something strange may happen," he said.

Central Investigation Bureau Deputy Commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Kasem Saengmit, who heads a committee investigating the case against Sorayut, said his men were preparing to interrogate Sorayut before handing him over to the Bangkok Criminal Court.

Malaysia might prosecute him for illegal entry before extraditing him, he said.

The Thai-Malay Border Committee had agreed on Sorayut's extradition, he said, and Malaysia was to inform Fourth Army Commanding-General Lt-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya, who headed the Thai side in the committee, when it was ready to do so.

Sorayut was to be brought to Bangkok because his case had already been transferred to the city, he said.

Police would interrogate him briefly before taking him to court the following day, he said, adding that they had already coordinated with the prosecution on this.

Six others have been charged in connection with the case, but so far only two have been arrested and detained by Thai authorities.

NPKC Expects New Constitution, 1992 Election

BK1607012991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jul 91 p 16

[Text] The National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC] expects the new constitution to be promulgated in October and wants an election to be held early next year as a "New Year's gift" for the Thai people, NPKC spokesman Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon said yesterday after the council's meeting at the Supreme Command headquarters.

Gen Chamlaeng said the council was yesterday given briefings on the progress of work by several committees, including the constitution-drafting panel.

He said 150 of the 200 articles of the new constitution had been completed. The draft, he added, is likely to be completed in mid-August after which it will be forwarded to the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] for consideration which would take about two months for all three readings.

"It is expected that by the end of October we will have a new constitution," said Gen Chamlaeng.

However, he cautioned that it would also depend on the NLA whether the charter would be passed in three readings this year.

"If not, then the Parliament will be given another 120 days to pass the constitution. However, failing to achieve this within the deadline, the government and the NPKC will select one of the previous charters for use and organise a general election within 90 days," he said.

"All in all, it will take seven months after the end of this year. But we (NPKC), actually want everything to be settled this year so that there will be an election as a New Year's gift to the Thai people," said the spokesman.

"We (the NPKC) don't wish to retain power and want it returned to the people quickly," he asserted, apparently in defence of the NPKC against criticism that the NPKC intends to retain absolute power.

Former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut accused the NPKC last week of clinging to power. He said the junta risked being ousted by the people if it did not hold an election soon.

"It is not fair to criticise us for clinging to power. If that were so, we would not have set up a civilian government and set a timeframe for the election," Gen Chamlaeng said.

Asked whether the election could be held in December, Gen Chamlaeng explained that this would depend on the time spent on amending the election law to conform with the constitution.

The NPKC spokesman said that the council agreed to continue its strong support for Gen Sit Chirarot in his capacity as chairman of the Assets Examination Committee despite criticism against his alleged prejudice.

"We know that he (Gen Sit) is tired and carrying a heavy burden. We have agreed to support him and give him moral support in all issues. And we beg that he will not lose heart," he said.

Meanwhile, the constitution-drafting committee yesterday went through Articles 157-190 of the new constitution.

Committee spokesman Dr Adun Wichiancharoen said concerning the power of the administrative branch to issue an executive decree, Article 157 (2) of the new constitution will also state that MPs or senators or members of both Houses, numbering at least 120 altogether, can submit a motion for the Constitutional Tribunal to decide whether or not an executive decree has been issued under the conditions stated in Article 157.

Article 157 states that an executive decree can be issued only in an emergency to safeguard the country's security, public safety, the country's economic stability or to avert disasters to the public.

To promote local administration and democracy, Section 9 of the constitution will emphasise the need for the promotion of self-administration.

Under Article 184, the Constitutional Tribunal will comprise the Parliament President, President of the Supreme Court and six other senior persons appointed, three each by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Under the 1978 Constitution, there were only four such persons.

Suchinda Interviewed on NPKC Image, Elections

BK1407093291 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 14 Jul 91 p 17

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun, army commander and vice chairman of the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC], granted an interview to reporters late on 13 July after attending a party at the Central Plaza Hotel. Asked about the NPKC meeting planned for 15 July, he said he did not know what would be discussed there because the agenda is prepared by the NPKC secretary general, General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi. Asked whether there would be a move to review the NPKC's role and restore its image, Gen. Suchinda said he did not think so because the NPKC role is already judged good.

Asked about the suggestion by General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, that the NPKC should not link elections with constitution drafting if it is sincere about building democracy, Gen. Suchinda said he could not imagine how the election law could be separated from the constitution. Asked whether he meant the constitution must be completed first before the election is held, the army chief said: "Yes." There should be no elections if the drafting of the constitution is not completed, he confirmed.

The NPKC vice chairman denied he ever said that there would be no elections should there be disturbances in the country. He made it clear that the election will be held, but he could not confirm if it will be this year. Asked whether he plans to meet with Gen. Chawalit, the army commander said he can meet Gen. Chawalit any time. He said he has always loved Gen. Chawalit. Asked about Gen. Chawalit's reference to a letter from a foreigner asking about the reported rift between Gen. Chawalit and himself, Gen. Suchinda replied with a question to newsmen about whether the letter was really written by them, adding that he never thought of quarreling with Gen. Chawalit.

About the fate of Thanong Pho-an, the labor leader who has disappeared, Gen. Suchinda said he has received no report from the police on the progress of the investigation.

Paper Calls for Action on Parliamentary System

BK1307022591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jul 91 p A8

[Editorial: "How to rebuild the parliamentary system?"]

[Text] The clash of ideas between ex-army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, and his successor Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun this week is counterproductive and unnecessary. Neither side can win in this futile argument and the biggest loser will be Thailand.

Chawlait opened fire on Monday night in an address to an NAP fund-raising dinner by arguing that the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC] had not done anything substantial to help usher in genuine democracy, thereby insinuating that Gen Suchinda and his powerful colleagues on the military council were attempting to cling on to power. Chawlait then reiterated his call for an early general election and warned the NPKC not to renege on its promise to return power to the people.

Gen Suchinda quickly responded by pointing out that the NPKC wouldn't have formed the Anan administration had he and his friends really wanted government power. Then he hit back, saying that those who wanted an early election were irresponsible and selfish because the drafting of a new constitution hadn't been completed and the deadline for the election was stil six to nine months away (the interim constitution calls for a general election before the end of this year, and by next April should there be some unforeseen delay in promulgating the new constitution).

As commander of the army, Gen Suchinda is already a very powerful man. Now there is even speculation that he may concurrently assume the post of supreme commander when Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong retires from the ceremonial post at the end of September. Most of his colleagues on the NPKC, like Deputy Army Commander Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi and Air Force Commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin, will continue to hold their posts after the NPKC is dissolved.

Whether or not Gen Suchinda and other top brass intend to hold on to power is irrelevant. They are in power; they can do and say what they please. And Gen Suchinda says he cannot rule out another coup if the country is once again plunged into a political crisis that the parliamentary system cannot resolve.

What then has the NPKC done to help rebuild a stronger parliamentary system? This is the chief criterion by which Gen Suchinda and his NPKC cohorts must be judged.

However, it is unfair to accuse the NPKC of reneging on its promise to hold a general election as soon as possible, as Chawalit did on Monday night. The interim constitution has no provision for an elected legislative body and it is impractical to hold an election without a constitutional framework.

Chawalit's point seems to be that the constitution beign drafted may be "undemocratic" in the sense that none of its drafters are elected representatives of the people. Thus he prefers drafting a constitution only after the election so that MPs can have a direct role in the process.

Holding an early election—at a time when many parties are still in disarray—would obviously be to the advantage of Chawalit's rapidly growing party. But it is unfair to those parties that are not ready. For example, MPs who have left the Social Action Party are in the process of registering a new party, to be called Prachatpathai (Democracy). Chawalit and other politicians should utilize the remaining six to nine months before the election to strengthen their parties and recruit high-quality people to field as election candidates. Well-organized and well-funded parties (and Chawalit's seems have these desirable characteristics) are necessary in making a parliamentary system function properly.

At the same time the NPKC should begin to ask itself what has it done to strengthen other parts of the parliamentary system. Gen Suchinda's stock answer to this question—that the NPKC has delegated government power to the Anan administration—is beside the point.

Several NPKC members are on the Anan Cabinet, including Gen Itsaraphong who is the interior minister.

The NPKC's primary justification for seizing government power on Feb 23 was to stop high-level corruption. How many cases of major corruption have actually been uncovered so far and how many high-level culprits have been brought to justice?

If the NPKC has no idea of how to help rebuild a parliamentary system—the task is supposedly being fulfilled largely by the constitutional-drafting committee—then at least it must show results in its self-appointed crusade against corruption. Passing the responsibility on to the Sitthi Committee alone is a power excuse.

The NPKC leaders plan to meet next Monday to review the situation and the progress in the drafting of the new constitution. It should take this opportunity to ask itself whether anything else can be done to make a future coup unnecessary.

Article Urges NPKC To 'Bow Out Gracefully'

BK1407023591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 91 pp A1-A2

[From "The Political Desk": "Military Needs Graceful Exit From Political Power"]

[Text] The National Peace Keeping Council (NPKC) must now think seriously about how to bow out gracefully from the centre stage of power while maintaining only legitimate influence to protect itself after having completely stepped down.

Like it or not, after more than four months, the NPKC has indeed become increasingly the most visible target of politicians' attacks, although it has delegated its powers to the interim government of Premier Anan Panyarachun on executive affairs, the National Assembly on legislative matters and the Assets Examination Committee, led by former interior minister Gen Sit Chirarot, on the investigation against politicians suspected of acquiring their wealth illegally.

One major purpose of the delegation of power was to shield the NPKC from criticism but it has failed.

Worse still, the NPKC has failed to deal decisively with corrupt politicians because Gen Sit and the other six committee members understandably have to show to the public that they would not serve as a political tool to clip the wings of the council's adversaries. As a result, the very objective of the coup, to purge corrupt politicians and make future politics cleaner, cannot be achieved. The legitimacy of the NPKC therefore has vanished.

Caught in the political dilemma and hit by other complications, the once-unified NPKC has become virtually paralyzed.

NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, who is also supreme commander, has become so discouraged by the political circumstances and battered by a family scandal that he is now only looking towards the day he will retire from military service, at the end of September, and the day when the election is held.

Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Praphat Kritsanachan, who is also defence minister, also shares Sunthon's desire to leave the centre stage.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, meanwhile, has been reported to be closely associated, though behind the scenes, with the newly-formed pro-military party, Samakkhitham (Justice Unity). And in reality, the party is seeking to become the core of the new administration to support an NPKC leader—first, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and then Kaset, after Suchinda publicly spurned the offer.

The tacit purpose is to bar from power New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who, until recently, had been tipped to be the the only strong candidate for the premiership since the Feb 23 coup inflicted a heavy blow on most other political parties.

Kaset also suffered from the publicity on an air force helicopter's role in the survey of the Golden Valley Golf Course and Country Club's construction site near Khao Yai National Park in Korat. He was even forced to admit publicly that he had invested in a similar golf course development project in Pak Chong district of the province.

Both Kaset and NPKC Deputy Secretary-General Gen Wirot Sangsanit, who is also army chief-of-staff and deputy transport and communications minister, are said to be advocating the longest possible continuation of the present political set-up, probably until next April, the deadline set by the provisional Constitution for the next general election.

They have also come under attack for allegedly supporting the continuation of the present military leadership's strong sway in politics after the election. Rumours have also been spread that ACM Kaset mentioned, tongue-in-cheek, that if Gen Suchinda really did not want to vie for the top executive branch post, he would go for it.

NPKC Secretary-General Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has also frequently been caught in an uneasy political spotlight for approving controversial projects put forth by bureacrats who are accustomed to retaining their discretionary power at the Interior Ministry. He has certainly lost more than whatever he might have gained in terms of political credibility.

Suchinda, who is officially No 2 in the NPKC as vice chairman but practically the most powerful figure as army commander-in-chief, is therefore trapped in the dilemma. His attempts to deny having any political ambition while turning a blind eye to the political manoeuvring by those around him have invited criticism that he is assuming a passive posture to keep all options open.

To spare the military from vengeful acts by politicians, Suchinda is aware that the next prime minister must be able to see eye-to-eye with the military, and in this case, Gen Chawalit seems to be the only choice in sight now. The unspoken alternative is for him to take over as prime minister if and when that's the only choice.

Staging another coup after the polls is thinkable only if the next administration of politicians is more corrupt and infamous than the one toppled on February 23.

Against this backdrop, the NPKC members, Suchinda in particular, need to take a bold step to break out of the political quagmire before they get hopelessly stuck in it.

The first option is for the NPKC to announce a more specific time-table on the promulgation of the new constitution and an earlier general election, probably by scheduling it for late this year, to defuse the mounting political pressure. Such a move is the best way out if the NPKC really does not care what politics would be like after the election.

But in reality, it may not be easy for Suchinda to risk offending his followers who have advocated the NPKC's stay in power until the very last moment allowed under the provisional Constitution if not beyond, and who are worried that their military interests would not be protected after the election.

The best practical way out is for the NPKC to announce its de facto exit from the power centre stage and its members' return to the barracks to concentrate only on their military duties. The NPKC can practically leave the question of when and how to hold the next election to the interim government and the National Assembly and waive its constitutional right to work out the issue with the Cabinet if the assembly fails to promulgate the new constitution by the end of this year.

In so doing the NPKC would no longer be the target of criticism, as its members would from then on comment only on security and military affairs under their conventional purview.

With the graceful exit of the NPKC, the government and the National Assembly would be left on their own and would therefore have to respond to public opinion on the shape of the new constitution and the timing of the new election if they would not want to take the blame for betraying the public.

The NPKC does not have to worry about the political stability of the government, for the armed forces already has enough power and ability to maintain peace and order in their capacity as top military leaders.

The provisional constitution will remain intact. So will be the constitutional powers of the NPKC.

And refraining from referring to the NPKC's decisive powers under it may be more effective than frequently issuing explicit or implicit threats of excercising the powers. After all, the real powers rest with the Armed Forces, and not with provisional constitution.

The NPKC leaders' practical retreat to their barracks would also not make any difference in terms of the Assets Examination Committee's performance. After all, the military leaders have admitted that Gen Sit is a man who cannot be controlled by anybody.

But that move alone would not be enough because critics and opponents would continue to find rich ammunition in the military presence in the government. Though the military officers in the Cabinet may claim that they were appointed in their individual capacity, they can still be accused of staging the coup for political power.

The military officers should also announce their voluntary withdrawal from the Cabinet—a move which would earn them and the NPKC political credibility. This step would also serve the purpose of the NPKC and the government to restore foreigners' confidence that the country is heading for a quick and inevitable restoration of democracy.

Tightening the NPKC's grip now would only backfire and would eventually lead to its confrontation with politicians and other pressure groups. The public would have no choice but supporting the politicians in that undesirable scenario.

Whatever Gen Chawalit's motives, his candid criticism against the NPKC's roles last week has to be taken seriously. NAP secretary-general Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri's warning that middle-ranking military officers are keeping a close watch on the NPKC cannot be ignored.

Chawalit issued the stern warning last week because he had learned that the NPKC might seek to stay on until April as against Suchinda's original intention to have the election held by the end of this year.

Suchinda would not want to be Chawalit's enemy, given the latter's chance of ascending to power after the polls. But Chawalit's push indicated that the friends-turn-foes scenario may eventually come true unless a compromise is struck now.

Suchinda reportedly conveyed a message through a trouble-shooter to Chawalit on Friday, asking for a man-to-man talk to sort the problem out. He also passed along the message that a top military officer who was reported to be behind the Samakkhitham Party does not belong to his army group.

Chawalit is expected to meet Suchinda but the meeting and nice words alone will not be enough to help.

Writer Analyzes NPKC's Impending 'Downfall'

BK1407041791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 91 p B3

["Sideline" column by Sophon Onkgara: "Junta must see the reality here"]

[Text] Member of the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC], the ruling military junta, are expected to meet sometime this week to review their performance and achievements following the coup d'etat of Feb 23 which ousted the Chatchai government and, in effect, disrupted the country's democratic development process.

Similar reviews will also be made by public-cause groups, politicians, academics and others. The results overall will not be much different since there has hardly been a positive aspect of the NPKC, as a group, or as individuals after the limited euphoria over the coup in some quarters fizzled out a few months ago.

The NPKC scored credit in the days immediately after the coup because of the opportunity it provided to halt the corruption thought to have been endemic in the previous administration. That was achieved at the expense of democratic rule. It is becoming clearer that this was a high price to pay indeed.

That the NPKC is willing to review itself is, to a certain extent, admirable. It is far better than getting itself into deeper self-deception. Needless to say, if it is going to conduct the process with an open mind it must be preparted for a rude awakening.

Here is one possibility. With sufficient objectivity, the military leadership will realize that in reality, the reputation of the NPKC is eroding to almost a critical point. In accounting terms, the junta is getting very close to red ink. All of this is due to its own doing.

Among the major causes of this downfall are over-confidence built up through long public exposure and a misguuided belief in invincibility. Exercising raw power might be forgiven by some, but it could never be forgtotten by the public. It has become another sad episode in our political history.

The junta has to bear in mind the underiable fact that it has not yet accomplished any of the five goals—now increasingly regarded as the pretexts—for staging the coup. Certain actions have made it impossible for it to achieve some of the goals, such as an end to parliamentary dictatorship.

The NPKC leaders should stop speculating that negative publicity about them was the work of some of the former Cabinet members whose assets remain frozen because of the ongoing investigation by the Sit Committee. If indeed there was a move to discredit certain generals or the junta through allegations of possible impropriety, it could be dismissed outright. Obviously, they couldn't do so when there was sufficient evidence to support the criticism following one scandal after another. This hardly bodes well for the politically-ambitious top brass.

Transparency, cherished as a key policy of the Anan administration, requires exposure. There is no exception even for the armed forces. All the misdeeds and shady deals, wherever there might be, must be brought to light. If they exist, not only would they probably be very enlightening, but would be punishable as well.

For the public, the intentions of the junta has become a big question mark. The attempt by key military figures to form a political party has been seen as an unmistakable effort to retain ultimate powers. No argument here. Every citizen has the right to set up a political party if he or she can command enough followers. In the case in point, the recruitment process has been distasteful. It is morally corrupted by enticing former MPs to join the party through questionable means.

Vote-buying by politicians has been condemned by military leaders as a disgusting practice. We agree wholeheartedly. But what should we call those who have bought or are buying politicians? Aren't they more despicable?

The investigation of the assets of 25 former Cabinet members and their underlings by the Sit Committee is being derided as a sham. The public sees the process more and more as a subtle means to force capitulation and submission by politicians in return for clearance, plus explicit certification by the committee, that they are not crooks after all.

The big fish were intentionally freed from the net. People have been shouting. It is too late. So deep down in their hearts, we believe that some of the committee members are aware that they could never speak with a clear conscience that there was no outside influence to guide their decision.

The dishonest politicians have now learned a lesson that they have to stash away ill-gotten gains far from the reach of the arm of the law as soon as possible. Assets amassed through corruption will be hard to trace in the future. A consolation for the crooks is that if they are caught by chance, they apparently can still negotiate their way out.

Key members of the junta have become hyper-sensitive to objective criticism now that the soft sell no longer works. They are particularly angry whenever they are caught in a compromising situation—their involvement in private ventures in golf courses and real estate projects which have encroached upon public land or forest reserves, among other things. Their integrity is critically questioned, which is something they cannot tolerate, for it also reflects a lack of subservience by the people, not to mention their adversaries.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that the junta has been the single biggest target of attacks by political parties and others. High-profile exposure just means a bigger target. A misstep causes more damage than it should.

The misstep, or rather misjudgement, occurred in the form of periodic interference and bullying exerted on the Anan government by over-confident generals, thus enhancing the corrosive effects on the junta's rapidly thinning credibility. Furthermore, our political history has always showed distrust between the military and elected civilian administratiions and a breaking point has never been too far away.

The uneasy relationship between Anan Cabinet members and some generals tells us more. Putting the issue of integrity in office aside, whatever frictions are going on now simply confirm the deep-rooted existence of attitude problems between the military institution and civilians. If the present government cannot fully achieve whatever objectives it has, the blame must rest with the junta.

More and more peole share an impression that the junta is impatient with the Anan government, no matter what was said publicly, after seeing that the administration has made a high degree of independence felt. The junta is in a dilemma of sorts. Despite all the bad rumours about a change of government or Cabinet members, a politial accident is still unlikely, at least before the World Bank/IMF meeting scheduled for October.

The junta cannot destroy what it has created. To oust the relatively popular government would mean a total loss of credibility. The damage would be unbearable. The military leadership would then risk aggravating the public's ire.

Editorial Views Problems of Party System

BK1607015991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Jul 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Unprincipled Politicians Keep Vicious Cycle Intact"]

[Text] More and more politicians are talking about a resurgence of the dreaded "vicious cycle" in Thai politics. Last week Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, warned military leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council not to cling to power and restart the vicious cycle that leads inevitably to another coup. Last Sunday Chuan Leekphai, leader of the Democrat Party, sounded a similar warning but blamed a different group for restarting the cycle.

Chuan reported that a couple of former MPs from his party have left to join a new party that is offering them a salary of up to Bt [baht] 20,000 a month. He believes former MPs from other parties may have also been wooed by the well-funded party this way. And Chuan pointed out, quite correctly, that unprincipled politicians who can be "bought" this way are themselves part of the vicious cycle.

Selfish politicians are jockeying for position to ensure their own election by switching to well-funded parties that are on good terms with the present military leadership. They will no doubt find a new home elsewhere once their present parties are out of money and favour with the military.

Unlike in many other countries, Thai political parties are formed without any ideological distinction or clear-cut policy platform. All the parties support the existing constitutional monarchy and multiparty parliamentary system, and capitalist market system with some government controls of the economy. There are no seious religious, racial or regional issues to divide people and politicians into separate rival parties. The personalities in a party's leadership is perhaps the overriding factor, apart from the personal ambition and greed of every politician, in determining party affiliation.

Radical change to the party leadership usually causes politicians in the rank and file to reexamine their station. When there are attractive offers from other parties, as is the case now with the New Aspiration Party and the Samakkhitham Party vying to recruit as many ex-MPs as possible, many of them will take them with little hesitation or fear of reprisal by their constituents. They may run in a different constituency from where they were last elected—and win if they are well-funded.

The leaderless Chat Thai Party is gradually losing its experienced politicians to other parties as several of its senior party executives are being investigated by the anti-graft Sit Committee for being "unusually wealthy". The old guard faction in the Social Action Party broke away last month to form a new party, that has yet to be registered. New SAP leader Montree Pongpanit, too, is under investigation by the committee.

Also suffering a break-up was the Solidarity Party, whose former leader Narong Wongwan is now the figurehead of Samakkhitham, and the Ratsadon Party, most of whose former MPs have joined Chawalit's party.

Muan Chon and United Democratic parties both face certain disintegration as Muan Chon leader Pol [police] Capt Chaloem Yubamrung is now in exile in Denmark and may have most of his assets seized, while debt-ridden UDP leader Col Phon Roengprasoetwit faces bankruptcy lawsuits.

Politicians in these parties may have valid reasons to jump ship because of disarray in the leadership. But why have those Democrats too?

The Democrat Party is the oldest existing party with a long tradition of high party discipline throughout most of its 45 years, the rebellion of the so-called Jan 10 Group a few years ago was and unfortunate exception. Chaun's rise to the top party post last year, succeeding Bhichai Rattakul, was widely anticipated. Democrat stayed out of the last Chatchai coalition and was thus widely perceived to be a relatively "clean" party in comparison with most other parties.

Money alone may not be the decisive factor for those Democrats who switched parties. But money plus a better chance to win an election is. The Democrat Party is clearly in decline. Even Chuan himself concedes that it will have to fight very hard to defend its traditional stronghold in the South. But it may be completely edged out of Bangkok—which used to be the Democrats' turf before the birth of the Prachakon Thai and Phalang Tham parties.

The plight of the 45-year-old party tells a lot about the sorry state of Thailand's political party system.

The oldest party is struggling for survival, whereas parties that are barely a few months or a few weeks old are attracting numerous experienced politicians with money and military support.

Without a strong party system, it is wishful thinking to expect the next general election to bring a new beginning of Thai democracy. The vicious cycle remains very much intact and those unprincipled politicians all have a part in creating it.

Anan Halts Plan To Increase Airline Board

BK1407040791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 91 p A1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has put the brakes on a plan to increase the number of members on the board of Thai Airways International from 11 to 15, questioning the qualifications of those to be appointed, a source in Government House said yesterday.

The plan was proposed by Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kaset Rotchananin in his capacity as president of the state enterprise's board of directors.

The source said ACM Kaset had submitted the proposal to Deputy Prime Minister Sano Unakun for consideration before forwarding it to the prime minister.

The source, however, said Anan has not yet agreed to the plan and will not table it to the Cabinet for approval until he can settle with Kaset who should really be appointed to the board.

"The prime minister put the brakes on this issue not because he did not agree that the board really needs to up the number of its members following the increase in the work load. He stopped it because Kaset had already made his selection even before the Cabinet approved the proposal," said the source.

Kaset chose four people—three military officers and a civil servant, according to the source.

He said Anan will not forward Kaset's plan to the Cabinet until he settles the matter with Kaset on who will be appointed to the Thai board.

"The discussions will include several parties as the prime minister wants only people who really have the expertise to qualify for the job. The selection should not be made by one person only.

"Thai is the national flag carrier which has to depend so much on experts. The appointment of people to the board should not be considered a bonus to senior government officials," said the source.

It was quite a surprise, however, that Transport and Communications Minister Nukun Prachuapmo had played a lesser role in the appointment of four additional members to the Thai board despite the fact that the state agency is under the jurisdiction of his ministry.

"Nukun may not have wanted to come into conflict with Kaset. That's why he let the prime minister take care of the issue," the source commented.

Minister Pledges To 'Eradicate' Southern Bandits

BK1407071891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Yala—Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi yesterday vowed to eradicate bandits harassing people in the southern border provinces within six months.

The interior minister made the statement while inspecting police motorcycle squads which will provide security for teachers who have been constantly harassed by bandits in the southern provinces.

Asked whether a major operation would be needed to suppress the bandits, Gen Itsaraphong said he did not think this would be necessary because government units in the area are ready to perform their duty.

Gen Itsaraphong said smuggling in the South would also be tackled in the near future.

He said a suggestion to demolish the wall on the Thai side of the border with Malaysia at Khao Daeng Pass in Sadao District to get rid of smugglers would have to be considered by many agencies concerned.

At Khao Daeng Pass, Thailand and Malaysia have built their own walls along both sides of the border line. The Thai wall is about five metres from the border while Malaysia's is about 200 metres from the border.

The two walls form the so-called "no-man's land" which has been used by smugglers to store their goods before being smuggled into Thailand.

However, Gen Itsaraphong said smuggling would be eradicated in two or three months. All of the laws concerned will be applied, he said, without elaborating.

Meanwhile, Fourth Army Commander Lt-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya admitted in Sadao District yesterday that Thai police crossed the border line of "no-man's land" to Malaysia on June 30 to arrest smugglers.

However, the crossing was unintentional, he said.

Lt-Gen Kitti said he had settled the matter with Malaysian authorities and considered it finished.

"If asked by Malaysia to return the seized items, we would comply," he said.

He said he had asked Thai authorities to be careful not to cross the border again.

Lt-Gen Kitti maintained that smuggling would not be tolerated.

Chawalit Comments on 'Rift' With Suchinda

BK1307015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jul 91 p A2

[Text] New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday said he had never suggested that the National Peacekeeping Council dissolve itself, only that it should seek additional members to increase its work load.

His statement came amid growing speculation about a rift between the former military leader and the armed forces.

Chawalit described the report that he suggested the dissolution of the military council as "false".

"The NPKC should increase its duties and appoint more members," said Chawalit. He gave no details.

Chawalit, who was former army commander-in-chief, said he still has a close relations with deputy NPKC chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

"I still love him (Suchinda)," said Chawalit, "we won't quarrel with one another even in the next life."

"Someone is just trying to provoke us into quarrelling. I've never had any prejudice against my 'brothers' in the NPKC. On Suchinda's question: 'Does Pi Chiew (Elder Brother) still love Nong Su (Younger Brother)? I would say: 'Pi Chiew loves Nong Su to the bottom of his heart'," said Chawalit. 'Jiew' is Chawalit's nickname and 'Su' is a short form of 'Suchinda'.

Asked how the general election is to be conducted if it is to be held before the new constitution is finished, he said the government should draft a number of election laws which could be ready within a month.

Chawalit said some countries had held elections despite the fact that they had no constitutions. "The provisional constitution is also considered a constitution. We can use that," he added.

Commenting on an ex-MP's [member of parliament] remarks that Chawalit was pushing for an earlier election for fear that the chances for him to become a premier would be less if it was held later, Chawalit said: "That's a narrow idea. I want a quick general election to restore democracy, which should not take a long time."

The general said if he simply wanted to be a prime minister, he need not have waited this long. He said: "A prime minister should come from elected MPs.

Ministry Fights Bill To Decentralize Authority

BK1307010991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] A controversial bill designed to decentralise administrative power nationwide which has sparked protests by Interior Ministry officials passed its second and third readings in the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) yesterday.

The bill, strongly opposed by some senior Interior Minister officials, is said to be aimed at allowing provincial governors to administer their provinces more effectively.

Somphop Hotrakit, president of the National Peace Keeping Council's legal advisers and chairman of the NLA's Administrative and Justie Committee which scrutinised the bill, defended the draft legislation.

The legislation seeks to empower provincial governors to supervise and control the worl of government officials who answer directly to central agencies in Bangkok, but are based in their provinces.

However, armed forces officers, officials of the prosecution and judicial agencies, universities and the Budget Bureau, and teachers will not be put under such supervision and control.

Mr Somphop said the most significant change in the bill was Article 54 under which provincial governors would have advisory committees empowered to approve provincial development projects.

Under the present law, the advisory committees hav only advisory powers.

He said the Government wanted to use the committees to their utmost capacity since they were represented by senior provincial officials from all government agencies who could contribute much to provincial development programmes.

Article 58 of the new legislation stipulates clearly the authority of provincial governors. It empowers the governors to recommend "for serious consideration" promotions of provincial officials to their respective agencies.

The bill passed its third reading with a unanimous vote after an hour of debate by the NLA.

Interior Minister Warns Unions About Unrest

BK1507010391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi warned yesterday that the ministry would not stand aside if unionists used the mysterious disappearance of labour leader Thanong Po-arn to instigate unrest.

Saying that that metropolitan police were making great efforts to search for Thanong, Itsaraphong asked labour unionists to stay calm to create a favourable atmosphere for the next general election.

"At this point, what the country needed most is domestic order in preparation for the approaching general election," he said.

Thanong has been missing for about four weeks. Labour unions threatened two weeks ago to hold protests if the police failed to solve the case.

The labour movement linked Thanong's disappearance to his role against the military-initiated dissolution of labour unions at state enterprises. The government, military and police have strongly denied speculation that the former Labour Congress of Thailand president was abducted and probably killed because of political reasons.

The labour movement had given the government an ultimatum to solve the mystery or face a major rally. The deadline passed on Friday without much response from the government except for Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's call for police to speed up their investigation.

"Police are making all-out efforts," Itsaraphong said.

Echoing comments by some military leaders, he said the labour movement's aggressive stand might have been politically motivated.

"If the labour movement tries to exploit the case in a bid to create disorder, the Interior Ministry will not stand still," he said.

Itsaraphong made the statements during a visit to a police school in Yala province. Accompanying him were Interior Permanent Secretary Charoenchit Na Songkhla and the deputy director general of the Local Administration Department, Damri Watthanasing.

In response to questions about separatist bandits in the South, the interior minister said in Yala yesterday that he believed the terrorist would be wiped out in six months.

He said that a concerted effort by government agencies and police would be able to deal with the problem, arguing that the number of terrorists was quite a lot smaller than people had been led to believe.

Muslim terrorists peppered a factory in Yala with gunfire and clashed with police last week, while another group ambushed a bus in Pattani, wounding six people.

The attacks are the latest in the on-and-off campaign of violence by the remaining southern Muslim terrorists, who are believed to number about 200-300.

Last week's attacks reportedly followed unsuccessful demands by Muslim terrorists for "protection fees" from factories and a bus company in the two southern provinces. Letters demanding protection money were found at the attacked factory in Yala.

Chat Thai Leader Added To Corruption List

BK1407032691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 91 p A2

[Text] The military-appointed graft committee yesterday added former deputy finance minister Suchon Champhunot to the list of suspected corrupt politicians.

Graft committee chairman Gen Sit Chirarot said Suchon would be given a chance to clear himself before the committee by showing how had he acquired his assets.

He said the committee members suspected that he had acquired some of his properties, including land and businesses, through dishonest means while serving as deputy finance minister.

Suchon, deputy Chat Thai Party leader, said yesterday he was sorry to learn that he was included in the list of those suspected of being unusually rich.

Suchon was confident that he would be able to clear himself to the satisfaction of the graft committee. "I can show evidence supporting how I've acquired my assets and clear myself within 10 minutes," he said.

"I've never been so sorry as I am now," he said. "My businesses are simply small ones, which needed no more than Bt [baht] 10 million investment."

Suchon claimed that he is now about Bt20 million in debt. After his assets had been frozen, he said, all of his businesses had come to a standstill.

He said the reasons why he was added to the list were concerned with politics. "I've prepared myself to face any difficulty," said Suchon.

Sit yesterday hinted that a number of politicians were to have been added to the list along with Suchon yesterday. But the committee members had not reached unanimous agreement on "some aspects concerning the supporting evidence."

In a more flexible move, Sit said the panel had allowed former commerce minister Chuchip Hansawat, also an ex-Chat Thai MP, to transfer a plot of land he sold before his assets were frozen to a buyer. The buyer had paid Chuchip but the land had been frozen before it was to be transferred. Sit said the money paid would be deposited to the bank and be frozen.

He said the panel had unanimously agreed to release a charity foundation's assets, saying it had been in trouble because the foundation could not gain interest from a bank account. Sit did not say to whom the foundation belongs.

Anan Denies Involvement in Project Bidding

BK1307020391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jul 91 p A1

[Text] Premier Anan Panyarachun yesterday denied any involvement in the Board of Investment's controversial decision to call a new bidding for the Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) project of the Second Petrochemical Complex (NPC-2).

He was responding to a published report accusing him of being behind the decision to help Saha Union Group, which he had served before his political appointment. The BoI, which Anan chairs, made the decision on July 8 on the grounds that Thai PTA Co Ltd, a joint venture with Saha Union Group's participation, failed to launch the project after winning approval for it in 1988.

The BoI rejected the company's call for increased privileges because of rising costs and decided to call a new bidding instead. But the published report claimed that Thai PTA was the only candidate for the project and that it would win it again with better privileges than ever.

It was, according to the report, a subtle way of helping Saha Union while protecting the government from criticism.

But Anan said yesterday he had nothing to do with the decision because he decided to leave the meeting when the matter was taken up. "It was a matter of propriety for me to do so and I let Industry Minister Dr Sippanon Ketuthat chair the meeting on that particular day," he said.

Anan had handled the project when he was with the Saha Union Group.

The premier said that reporters should pose their questions on the BoI's decision with Sippanon, or the BoI secretary general.

"They (the writer of the published report) wanted to link me to the BoI's decision. They have a habit of doing so and there is nothing I could do to stop them," he said.

Foreign Ministry To Dissolve Political Dept

BK1307013491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's restructuring plan for the Political Department will take effect in September, ambassador-at-large Dr Pratyathawi Tawethikun said yesterday.

Under the plan, the Political Department will be dissolved and replaced by four new smaller departments—the East Asia Department and the South Asia, Middle East and Africa Department.

All four departments will be answerable to Mr Sarot Chawanawirat director-general of the Political Department, who is expected to be promoted deputy permanent secretary.

Since the departments will handle both bilateral political and economic affairs, the Economic Department's role in economic affairs will be lessened and will attach greater emphasis to private sector affairs, Dr Pratyathawi said.

The restructuring is designed to improve efficiency without increasing manpower, he said.

Vietnam

Cambodian Premier Hun Sen Arrives in Beijing

BK1507153091 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and his party arrived in Beijing, China, this afternoon for an informal SNC meeting scheduled for July 16-17, VNA correspondent in Beijing reports.

The Cambodian delegation was greeted at the airport by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his wife and the ambassadors of Vietnam, Laos and Cuba, and the charges d'affaires a.i. of the Soviet Union and India in Beijing.

This is the first time Hun Sen visited Beijing since the establishment of the Cambodian Government.

After the SNC meeting, Hun Sen and Sihanouk are expected to leave Beijing for Pyongyang at the invitation of Prince Sihanouk, then return to China on July 22.

Japanese Parliamentary Group Ends 5-Day Visit

BK1507152391 Hanoi VNA in English 1402 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—The Japan-Vietnam inter-parliamentary group delegation left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding its five-day visit to Vietnam.

While here, the Japanese guests led by Sakurauchi Yoshio, speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives, paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, visited his home and office.

They were received on separate occasions by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi and National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, and had working sessions with senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the State Planning Committee, the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association.

They also toured various economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai Province in south Vietnam.

Japanese Communist Party Holds Reception in Hanoi

BK1607063991 Hanoi VNA in English 0559 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 16—Yatsushi Kitani, representative of the Japanese Communist Party [JCP] in Vietnam, gave a reception here Monday evening in honour of the 69th anniversary of the JCP (July 15).

Prominent among the Vietnamese guests was Tran Trong Tan, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of its commission for culture and ideology.

Toasts were raised to the fine development of the solidarity and cooperation between the parties and peoples of Vietnam and Japan.

Over 1.7 Million Tons of Crude Oil Extracted

BK1607064891 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 16—In the first half of this year, the Vietnam-USSR petroleum joint enterprise (Vietsovpetro) tapped 1,718,000 tons of crude oil. This is nearly 10 percent above the target for the first six months and represents 70 percent of the 2.7 million ton output of last year.

At present, the enterprise is pumping 9,000-11,000 tons of crude per day, peaking at 12,000 tons on some days.

The Vietnam Petro-Technique Import-Export Corporation (Petechim) has been assigned to buy a 150,000-ton oil tanker at a cost of 48 million US dollars, which is expected to be delivered to Vietsovpetro in early October.

Six out of the 18 foreign corporations which have registered their tenders for construction of oil refining facilities in Vietnam were asked to prepare their economic and technical feasibility studies.

They are: total (France), Shell (Holland), and Nissho, Iwai Jpaex, Nippon-Mining Cith and Tomen of Japan.

The six foreign partners have submitted their economic and technical feasibility studies to the evaluation board at the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

Decree on Regulations for Foreign Banks Issued

BK1307132391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers has just issued a decree on regulations concerning foreign banks and jointly operated banks working in Vietnam, authorizing the director general of the State Bank to grant business licenses to the banks after their applications have been approved by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The decree consists of seven chapters concerning application procedures and conditions for granting licenses, the type and size of businesses, control, transaction, solving violations and conflicts, change and extension, and the termination of businesses and liquidation.

Do Muoi Sends Message to PRC on Flooding

BK1507151791 Hanoi VNA in English 1358 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has sent a message of sympathy to Chinese Premier Li Peng over the heavy human material losses caused by floods since June 1991 to Chinese people in many provinces.

The Vietnamese leader expressed his belief that the Chinese people in the flood-stricken areas under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Government, would soon overcome all consequences and restore their production and stabilize their life.

Giap, Dinh No Liem, French Envoy Mark 14 Jul

BK1507144591 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 14—French Ambassador to Vietnam Claude Blanchemaison gave a reception here this evening to mark the 202d anniversary of the French National Day (14/7/1789-14/7/1991).

Present at the reception were General Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Dinh Nho Liem, vice foreign minister and other senior vietnamese officials.

Ambassador Claude Blanchemaison and General Vo Nguyen Giap raised toasts to the consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and France for the benefits of the two peoples.

EC Program on Repatriated Asylum Seekers Signed

BK1607065391 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 16 Jun 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 16—A memorandum of understanding on the execution of the European Community Programme of Credits to the repatriated Vietnamese asylum seekers was signed here on July 13.

Signatories were Mr John Pilgrim, EC programme director, and dang Trong Cong, deputy director of the Vietnam Bank for Agriculture.

In the first drive, the EC will grant credits of 13 million US dollars to repatriates in Haiphong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. The sum will be channelled through the bank for agriculture. The borrowers will benefit from a 50 per cent cut rate on the interests if they strictly abide by the rules and objectives of the programme and pay their debts on schedule.

Pham The Duyet Addresses Seventh CPV Congress

BK1507152891 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Jun 91, p 3

["Excerpts" of statement by Pham The Duyet, delegate from Hanoi, at the 24 June session of the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam]

[Text] After more than four years of renovation in accordance with the resolution of the sixth party congress and against the backdrop of the seriously complicated world situation, we must affirm in a modest manner that the renovation process of our capital and country has yielded highly important initial results.

First of all, by resolutely eliminating the subsidy-based and bureaucratic mechanism of management; by successfully overcoming passiveness, the idea of depending on others, and irresponsibility; and by encouraging all economic components to jointly develop themselves, we have been able to allay the pace of economic regression, reduce the high rate of inflation, exploit the latent potentials of society, and attach importance to production and business efficiency.

All state-run and collectively-owned production establishments, when shifting to the accounting and business system, have encountered numerous difficulties. However, more than 30 percent of the local small industrial and handicraft enterprises or cooperatives and over 50 percent of the central-level enterprises have successfully overcome ordeals in this process. As a result, they have been able to determine the direction for development, do business steadily with profits, and increase ample income for their workers. Many establishments have partially or completely changed their techniques and equipment in an effort to turn out more goods of high quality.

All agricultural cooperatives in the 12 suburban districts and cities, by applying product contracts with families or turning over cultivated land to each laborer for cultivation, have encouraged peasants to engage enthusiastically in production. In 1989 and 1990 the grain output reached more than 500,000 metric tons per year, exceeding the norm set by the 10th municipal party organization congress and producing an increase of more than 20 percent over that in 1986.

The production of goods in the rural areas is developing and the winter crop acreage accounts for 45 percent of the total area of cultivated land, almost doubling that in previous years. Electricity has been supplied to 75 percent of villages in the capital's suburbs. In more than 10 percent of villages, people have been able to install street light systems, build new roads and spacious houses, and buy household appliances. Meanwhile, new rural areas have taken shape and the number of peasant families facing food shortages during the pre-harvest period has now been reduced to only 7-10 percent from 15-20 percent in the past.

It can be said that thanks to the process of renovation, the concepts of eliminating the bureaucratic and subsidy-based mechanism of management, practicing a market-oriented economy, attaching importance to the production of goods and a multicomponent economy, and expanding external economic relations with all countries have been formed and accepted. Meanwhile, the capital's appearance and infrastructure have undergone many changes.

The issues concerning grain, fuel, essential consumer goods, the supply of power to production and consumption, and the payment of wages behind schedule—which were the subjects of debate at previous conferences—have now been settled. The people are happy as they no longer have to queue up in front of stores at dawn to purchase rice, meat, and fuel by ration stamps and coupons.

Thanks to the process of renovation, a better atmosphere of democracy and openness has been created within the party and in society and letters of complaint and denunciation of citizens have promptly been settled. Supporting the process of renovation, the people have actively discussed or contributed views to criticizing the party and made suggestions to the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution on intensifying the party's mass mobilization work, as well as to the drafting of various documents to be submitted to the seventh party congress. They have also supported and actively participated in implementing resolutions of revamping the party and opposing corruption and crimes to maintain order and security in the municipality at various levels.

We should refer to a number of emphatically basic things that have been done in the past few years in order to affirm that our party—especially its sixth Central Committee headed by esteemed Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh—not only possesses a firm political background and revolution-tested experience, but also has the ability to renovate itself and effectively solve the country's theoretical and practical issues. Apart from this, it always manifests a heroic spirit in overcoming all difficulties and absolute faith in its leadership and our people.

In view of this, we must affirm that: "All the initial achievements in the process of renovation belong, first of all, to the people." These achievements testify to the fact that we are determined to carry out renovation in order to advance the Vietnamese revolution on the socialist path—the path chosen by Uncle Ho. In this spirit, we will win the wholehearted support of our people, and the struggle to build socialism in Vietnam under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] will certainly be a success.

Despite certain highly important achievements, based on actual life, and through criticism and the views contributed by the people of the capital as well as by recent first-round party organization congresses at various levels, there actually remain many weaknesses and great difficulties in the immediate future.

In the domain of economic development, although a new mechanism of management has come into being, many obsolete concrete policies have not yet been abandoned and many laws and policies at the macro level still have not uniformly been enforced or promptly replenished. As a result, many of the party's usefully practical standpoints and resolutions have not been fully applied to life.

The question of shifting state-run enterprises and economic or small industrial and handicraft units to an accounting and business system and enabling grass-roots units to assume responsibility by themselves still causes great confusion. Difficulties in terms of capital, techniques, and markets remain serious. Meanwhile, there is a lack of capable managerial cadres. After nearly three years of renovation, some 50 to 60 percent of the number of grass-roots units still have not been able to ensure stable production. In many places, jobs are still not sufficient for workers and laborers. failing to undertake full-time jobs, many of them cannot earn enough for a living.

Meanwhile, new iregularities have emerged in banking, finance, and pricing. Laxity in management has brought about grave consequences, such as misappropriation of the people's credit funds in various cities or misappropriation of each other's funds among organs and enterprises; the failure to settle bank loans due to losses incurred in business operations; and the development of corruption. Loopholes in some new policies have resulted in the loss of thousands of billions of dong for the state and people, and these losses have aroused indignation among the masses.

In eliminating the system of state subsidies and rearranging production and business operations, social policies have played a very important role (as they manifest not only state responsibility, but also national principle.) These policies, however, have not yet been enforced. Many legitimate demands that should be satisfied have been rejected or curtailed instead. Presently in the capital, hundreds of thousands of people remain unemployed, and tens of thousands of families are facing great difficulties due to the lack of housing. Meanwhile, only limited care is being given to the livelihood of more than 170,000 retirees; over 70,000 families of war invalids and fallen combatants; and more than 500,000 workers, civil servants, and members of the Armed Forces who still must live on scanty wages, while commodity prices have already increased on several occasions.

These are daily stern demands and ordeals that cannot be satisfied without adoption of the new policies of the party and state. Numerous difficulties have also been reported in activities related to the medical examination and treatment of the people and the education of children. Crimes and social vices have developed, and the differential between the rich and poor due to dishonest business practices, corruption, and bribery is currently the source of concern and indignation among those people of all strata who have good intentions toward the revolution. This situation should be accurately assessed so countermeasures can be adopted.

Worse still, the leading role of all party, administrative, and mass organizations remains weak in many aspects. The number of firm and strong grass-roots party organizations is no more than 40 percent, and although the number of key cadres is large, these cadres still lack the necessary ability and confidence to take on the process of renovation, and they still perform their work with little efficiency. The knowledge of grass-roots cadres, especially those at the city ward or village level, is poor. More and more of them have become less enthusiastic in their work. All organs and echelons are known to have suffered a shortage of cadres for replacement. In the mechanism of the relationship between party and state organs and mass organization, powers and responsibilities have not yet been clearly defined, causing overlap and irresponsibility in their work.

Many resolutions, although impressively sound, have not been throughly implemented. Meanwhile, efforts have not been made to severely, adequately, and promptly deal with such practices and problems as "speaking quit a lot but doing only a little," "lacking control and supervision," and "tending toward rightist deviation."

We can say that the party's organizational and cadre-related work is a cause of primary and most serious concern on which views had been contributed to the party Central Committee by many people at the first-round party organization congress.

The party organization and people of the capital are well aware of their responsibility over the tasks of maintaining political stability; vigorously carrying out economic, cultural, scientific, and technical development; and caring for the livelihood of the people of the capital in every aspect in order to successfully implement all of the party's resolutions in the process of renovation. With a spirit of self-criticism, we will concentrate on successfully overcoming all the aforementioned existing shortcomings and weaknesses. In the immediate future, we will resolve to satisfactorily carry out all the socioeconomic tasks for 1991, as well as satisfactorily hold the second-round congress of the municipality in accordance with the spirit of the Seventh CPV Congress' resolutions.

We fervently hope to work under the close leadership of the party Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, and the Council of State. The assistance and coordination of all ministries, organs, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in all localities throughout the country will help the capital of Hanoi successfully carry out the process of renovation and enable it to advance to socialism, thus making it worthy of being the capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the path chosen by our party and unboundedly beloved and respected Uncle Ho, and satisfying the aspirations of more than 3 million people of the capital and our compatriots throughout the country.

Comparison of Bui Thien Ngo's Congress Statement

CM1530716009I

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese on 26 June carries on page three the 2,300-word statement by Lieutenant General Bui Thien Ngo, delegate from the Central Party Organization of the Public Security Force, at the 25 June sesion of the Seventh CPV, Communist Party of Vietnam, Congress held at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. This version has been compared with and found to be identical to the referent Voice of Vietnam version published in the 11 July East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 12, revealing the following variations:

Column one, paragraph one, sentence one reads: We would like to express some views on the tasks... (deleting sentence one)

Column two, third full paragraph, sentence two reads: .. security and order. Against this historical background, in implementing the resolution of the sixth party congress in the field of national security and the maintenance of social order and safety, and basing themselves on the review of realities from the grass roots up, our party and state have made important changes in the line, positions, policies, operational methods, and building of the People's Public Security Force. Maintenance of public order and security has effectively contributed to developing the multisectoral economy and renovating the economic management mechanism. While resolutely opposing all acts of abusing religion and ethnic minorities, we have attached great importance to the freedom of faith and the strengthening of solidarity between religious and nonreligious people, and among all nationalities. In struggling without compromise against disaffected and opportunist elements who demand political pluralism, we have combined disciplinary action with education and persuasion, adopted a fair and reasonable approach, and strengthened unity within the party, thereby leaving no loopholes for the enemies to exploit. We have also abolished many troublesome formalities and unnecessary prohibitions concerning freedom of movement and freedom to engage in business by the people, thereby contributing to building and developing socialist democracy. We have renovated emigration and immigration procedures and formalities, thus creating favorable conditions for broadening our external relations. In the past, national security work has contributed to safeguarding the revolutionary gains, defending the socialist regime, and protecting the party. It has actively contributed to maintaining political stability, effectively struggled against the scheme of "peaceful evolution," promptly checked espionage and infiltration activities in many forms, punished criminal offenders, and maintained public order. (new graf) However, the political... (providing additional material)

Page 13, column one, paragraph one, sentence three reads: ...in our country. (new graf, deleting last sentence)

Paragraph two, sentence one reads: Facts in the...(deleting sentence one)

7th Central Committee Sends Message of Thanks

BK1607080491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Message of thanks from the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam—date not given]

[Text] Recently, our comrades, compatriots, and combatants throughout the country, together with our compatriots abroad and the foreign delegates, made precious contributions to the fine success of the Seventh National Congress of Delegates of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]. On this occasion, various levels, sectors, mass organizations, organs, units, and people of various strata in the country and our compatriots overseas, as well as the leaders of many countries, parties, and national and international movements and organizations, and numerous friends around the world sent letters and messages of greetings to the Seventh CPV Congress, the Seventh CPV Central Committee, and Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi. The CPV Central Committee solemnly expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all and its resolve to lead to the satisfactory implementation of the Seventh CPV Congress resolutions, to continue to advancing the renovation undertaking of our party and people, thus proving itself worthy of the trust of the entire party and people and of its friends in all the five continents.

Son La Delegate Speaks at 7th Party Congress

BK1507155391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Jul 91

["Excerpt" from statement by Son La Provincial Delegate Do Van An at the Seventh National Party Congress held 24-27 June in Hanoi Ba Dinh Conference Hall—announcer-read]

[Summary] The initial achievements in the renovation process in Son La Province in particular, and the northwestern part of the country in general, have brought about much hope for the mountainous regions to extricate themselves from the vicious circle of an autarkic economy. "In recent years, they have enabled Son La Province to quickly increase the volume of agricultural products and goods, using short-term and long-term industrial crops such as soybeans, tea, sugarcane, coffee, mulberry, oleaginous and medicinal plants, fruit trees, livestock feed, and other advantages."

On the strength of agricultural and forestry products, Son La Province has basically resolved famine and surged forward to solve other problems. "Although the achievements are still modest, they have had a great efffect on consolidating the confidence of people of all nationalities in the Communist Party of Vietnam and its proper policy toward nationalities." However, Son La province in particular, and the mountainous regions in general, are facing great difficulties and disadvantages of an underdeveloped region. The pressing problem now is to shift to the production of goods in order to enable the mountainous people to settle their farming and their way of life. Whether or not this can be achieved depends entirely on proper labor division and state investment.

We agree with the state policy on investment in the mountainous regions aimed at creating conditions for the people to gradually shift to a goods economy. To this end, we have paid special attention to the following points:

"First, we fully agreed with the party Central Committee on the congress documents concerning the strategy and distribution of production forces to various mountainous regions" to ensure equal development among regions countrywide and to strengthen local defense forces.

"Second, along with the three economic programs for grain, food products, consumer, and export goods, it is recommended that the party and state initiate a uniform and comprehensive program for forestation" because forests constitute a vital factor in the livelihood of ethnic minority people and in the economy and defense of mountainous regions.

"Third, in formulating the guideline for investment in the mountainous regions, uniform attention should be paid to raising the intellectual standard of the people and the quality of infrastructural material bases," primarily transportation, energy, water conservancy, processing facilities, and communication.

"The policy of giving financial aid to public health, education, and training of ethnic minority cadres is most appropriate. Only if it can be implemented scrupulously, uniformly and effectively", can the underdeveloped status of ethnic minority people be overcome.

"Fourth, there should be special priority systems and policies aimed at providing immediate basic and advanced training for ethnic minority cadres" in order to give ethnic youths knowledge not only about military subjects but also about cultural, economic, technological, and managerial matters so that we can have a contingent of ethnic cadres to meet the requirments of the renovation process.

"We think that the training and formation of a contingent of cadres for mountainous provinces is a vital and urgent task. It is an objective and factor of primary importance that should receive concentrated investment in the coming years in order to really intensify our party authority over the mountainous regions and strengthen solidarity and unity among the fraternal people of all nationalities countrywide, with the aim of victoriously implementing the seventh party congress resolution."

16,561 'Corrupt Elements' Disciplined

BK1607054391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Various sectors and localities recently picked 442 key areas as the targets for 2,347 anticorruption inspections, which resulted in the recovery of 169.7 billion dong, U.S. $988,000, 79 taels of gold, and 10,588 tonnes of paddy, and other property for the state. A total of 16,561 corrupt elements have been subject to administrative disciplinary measures. Of those punished, 341 were forced to resign; 568, including a vice minister, three department leaders, three general corporaton directors, 16 provincial service directors and deputy directors, 169 corporation and enterprise directors, six provincial party committee members, two district party committee secretaries, seven district people's committee chairmen and vice chairmen, and 70 district party committee members, were dismissed.

From the promulgation of Decision 240 to the first quarter of 1991, 922 cases of malfeasance were prosecuted and 590 other were tried, including 29 cases in which the culprits were sentenced to 10 to 20 years imprisonment and and four other cases in which the culprits received life sentences.

Through these realities, the sectors and localities concerned have realized the seriousness of corruption and the sophisticated tricks of the corrupt elements as well as their own mistakes and shortcomings in carrying out their state management functions. For this reason, 23 ministries and sectors have reexamined 4,734 policy papers and documents, revised and amended 807, and abrogated 1,526 others. Meanwhile, 32 provinces and cities have rechecked 26,939 policy documents, revised and amended more than 1,100, and rescinded 9,260 others.

Now that the seventh party congress is over, all levels and sectors are engaging in emulation activities to implement the congress resolutions. We should push forward the struggle against corruption even more strongly in order to meet the pressing demands of this task.

Pham The Duyet Attends Industrial Meeting

BK1307130591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Recently, the Hanoi industrial sector held a meeting to review its production and business performance and discussed measures to implement the seventh national party congress resolutions. Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the party Political Bureau and first secretary of the city party committee attended the meeting.

In the last six months, Hanoi industrial production units had many difficulties in capital and marketing: Generally speaking, machines in the units are too old and outdated; the investment to renew equipment is difficult due to lack of funds; in production and business, many units do not have enough working capital; at present, the East European market is almost completely cut off; the zone two market is not big enough because our product quality is low; and the domestic market is facing severe competition from foreign products, especially smuggled foreign products.

These difficulties have directly affected the first six-month targets of the entire sector. The general product value only reaches 36.57 percent of the yearly plan. The export products only reach 24.62 percent of the plan. Out of 47 enterprises of the sector, 32 enterprises have low general production value including 22 enterprises falling below 70 percent compared to the same period in 1990. However, the entire sector pays 4.5 billion dong to the national budget, reaching approximately 62-63 percent of the yearly plan.

Through review, the strengths and weaknesses of the sector have been discovered. The sector is determined to put the seventh national party congress resolutions into production and business performance by strongly renovating the ways of thinking and doing business, renewing equipment and production patterns to deserve the leading economic role in the renovation undertaking of the capital.

4.8 Million People Work in New Economic Zone

BK1407083591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] According to information from the Department of Employment and Population Management of the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare, so far in the whole country there are 4.8 million people taking part in the new economic zone construction program in the midland and mountainous areas in the north, the southern part of the Central Highlands, and within the provinces.

People have opened 1.52 million hectares of virgin land, including putting into full use hundreds of thousands of hectares, producing 1.07 million of food stuff in paddy equivalent.

The new economic zones contribute to providing jobs for more than two million people, creating on average 100,000 new jobs every year.

In the last ten years alone, through the building of new economic zones, the rubber industry has provided 175,000 jobs, the coffee industry has provided 40,000 jobs, and another 5,000 people are working in the tea, sericulture, and sugar industries.

Industrial Production Down in Ho Chi Minh City

BK1407140591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Because of difficulties in capital, electricity, and the high price of equipment and materials due to competition from imported goods, industrial production , as well as the production of small industries and handicrafts, in Ho Chi Minh City has decreased.

In the first six months of this year, the value of industrial production, and small industry and handicraft production, of the city decreased by 7.2 percent compared with the same period last year.

Three out of 18 wards are districts which have increased production. These are: Ward Three increasing 37.9 percent, Ward 10 increasing 25 percent, and Thu Duc District, basically equaling the rate during the same period last year.

Twelve out of 18 wards and districts decreased their production from 15 to 19.6 percent. Some units have had to change their production pattern or work irregularly. Some have had to dissolve or cease doing business.

However, some units have invested more in equipment, being active in their business, and have put out new products to stabilize and increase production. They are: the Joint Venture Fishing Product Company, the Hung Vuong Frozen Food Export Company, the 30 April Machine Export Cooperative, the Binh Tien Cooperative, and the Minh Phung Factory.

Directive Issued on Political Work Among Militia

BK1207103191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The General Political Department of the Vietnam People's Army recently issued a directive giving guidance on some questions related to party and political work in the militia and self-defense forces in the new situation. The directive is aimed at strengthening the militia and self-defense forces politically, ideologically, and organizationally.

The directive points out that it is necesary to pay greater attention to building the militia and self-defense forces politically and to clearly realize the fierce and complicated character of the current struggle in the ideological domain and the role and position of the militia and self-defense forces. On this basis, it is necessary to step up political and ideological education, provide timely information, smash all psychological warfare lines of the enemy and opportunistic elements, and ensure that the militia and self-defense forces are absolutely loyal to the party, the fatherland, and the people. Importance must be attached to selecting party and youth union members and demobilized soldiers for induction into the militia and self-defense forces. The contingent of cadres must be reexamined and reorganized and cadre plans must be worked out, especially in border areas and in regions inhabited by religious believers and ethnic minorities.

Hanoi Council Reviews Socioeconomic Plans

BK1407080891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] On 9 and 10 July, the 10th Hanoi People's Council held its eighth meeting session to review the situation in the first six months and discuss measures to implement the socioeconomic plan in the last six months of 1991.

The council unanimously agreed on measures to be concentrated on in order to successfully implement socioeconomic plans of the last six months and of the entire year of 1991, continuing putting the Seventh National Party Congress into action.

The council entrusts the people's committee to closely watch and solve any problems in product selling and capital funding and create conditions to help production and business units so they can continue to increase production levels. The council also entrusts the committees to gradually solve difficulties in life and employment, and above all to satisfactorily improve the rice crop production by providing enough agricultural materials, protecting and preventing the 10-month rice crop from the effects of flash floods and typhoons, and guaranteeing that the winter rice crop will be 20 percent of the planted areas.

In financial and monetary work, the committee is to strive to balance the local budget, practice thrift, and make efficient use of capital resources.

Together with the accomplishment of the socioeconomic duties, all levels and sectors need to strive to achieve targets in improving life and employment, strengthening social order and political security, pushing the mass motivation against crime and corruption, and intensifying the work of construction management in the capital.

VNA Carries Nationwide Agricultural News

BK1407080291 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT
14 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 14—Farmers throughout the country have put 254,000 hectares under vegetables, subsidiary food and short-term industrial crops for the summer-autumn cropping.

The acreage included 140,000 hectares of subsidiary food crop, 52,700 hectares of vegetables and beans, and 62,000 hectares of short-term industrial crops.

Major producers are Ha Son Binh, Ha Nam Ninh and Son La provinces.

Official statistics showed that on April 1, 1991 the country had more than 5.92 million head of cattle, including 2.82 million buffalos (2.18 milion in the north) and some 3.10 million cows and oxen (over 1.44 million in the north).

Land Management Seminar Held in Ho Chi Minh City

BK1607063391 Hanoi VNA in English 0554 GMT
16 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 16—A seminar on a system for land management was recently held in Ho Chi Minh City jointly by a commercial delegation of the Queensland State, Australia, and the city people's committee.

The seminar dealt with effective management and use of land in general and farmland in particular, and foreign investment, training of land workers, measures against land erosion.

The 13-member delegation, led by Minister of Land A.G. Eaton, visited Vietnam from July 10-14 after a tour of the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore to strengthen relations with land organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Council of Ministers Issues Tax Decision

BK1207103391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] On 29 June the Council of Ministers issued Decision No. 203 regulating details of the implementation of sales tax, special consumption tax, and income tax. The decision comes into effect from the date of signing.

The Council of Ministers authorizes the minister of finance to issue a decision to adjust the collection rate of sales tax, special consumption taxes, and income tax when the market price changes more than 20 percent.

The council authorizes the minister of finance to issue guidelines on implementation of the reduction of sales tax according to Point Three, Article 18 of the sales tax law in which the maximum reduction does not exceed 50 percent of the tax.

The council also authorizes the minister of finance to decide on the reduction of special consumption tax in case the production units are facing many difficulties. At the moment, cigarettes and alcohol of different kinds produced from state-owned enterprises are exempted from consumption tax.

The council instructs the Ministry of Finance to unitedly control the fee collection applied in sectors and levels and to regulate the management, distribution, and using of these fees. The Ministry of Finance is responsible to organize the collection of some fees that raise big revenue. The Ministry of Finance is to quickly propose to the Council of Ministers the categories of fees that will be unitedly applied in the whole nation.

Ministers Issue Decree on Inspectors, Associates

BK1207135591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers has just issued Decree No. 191 on laws governing inspectors and associate inspectors.

The decree stipulates that the inspectors must meet the following requirements: be of good political quality; be responsible, honest, just, and impartial; hold a college degree in economics, technology, social work, or state management; have training in jurisprudence or a degree in legal studies; have socioeconomic management or state management training; and have knowledge of inspection work and at least two years experience in inspection work, not including work experience. If one has been transferred from a party, state office, or army unit, he must have at least one year working in inspection work.

The decree also regulates that the state inspection offices be allowed to use associates in inspection work. The associate inspectors have wide scientific and technical knowledge, together with practical knowledge of state and socioeconomic management, and are employed by state inspection offices.

Vo Chi Cong Greets Academy on Anniversary

BK1307121991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 4 Jul 91

["Text" of State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong's Letter to Cadres and Personnel of the Army Academy on the latter's 45th anniversary]

[Text] Dear comrades: On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the army academy, on behalf of the party and state, I cordially convey my best regards and warm greetings to all the cadres, teachers, students, workers, noncommissioned officers and combatants; and my cordial wishes to all sick and wounded soldiers, the family members of fallen heroes who have courageously sacrificed for the nations's revolution, and all the comrades who have retired or transferred to other branches since the establishment of the academy.

Over the past 45 years, led by the party and the state and cared for by the people, the army academy has constantly developed and matured. From the first military refresher training courses to the politico-military academy and now the army academy, and through the various periods of history, the academy has constantly fulfilled its assigned tasks.

Through 164 training courses, the academy has conducted basic and advanced training for more than 25,000 middle and high level cadres of all armed branches and services. At the same time, it has fulfilled its international obligations. Many graduates from the academy have become high-ranking cadres and generals occupying important positions in the army.

The academy has sent many delegations of cadres and teachers out on study tours and combat missions to many battlefields during the various wars to liberate, reunify, and defend the Socialist Vietnam homeland. It has made important contributions to the development of military science and arts in the Vietnamese revolution, implemented well the instructions of respected and beloved President Ho Chi Minh during his visits to the academy, and deserved the noble awards of Ho Chi Minh Order and many others that the party and state have granted to the academy.

On this occasion, I warmly commend the army academy for its achievements and armed exploits over the past 45 years.

Dear comrades, you are faced with the very heavy duties of actively helping to implement the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Congress resolution, accelerate the renovation process comprehensively, and defend and build the socialist fatherland.

Working in a center to conduct the basic and advanced training of middle level military cadres for the army, you must clearly realize the current difficult and complex situation, correctly assess the nature of plots and maneuvers by imperialism and other hostile forces, and thoroughly understand the tasks of the army and the academy in the new situation. You must remain firmly persistent, develop your political responsibility to the maximum, and strive to raise the standards of your knowledge, your revolutionary qualities and your ethics. You must achieve high standards in research, teaching and studying. You must continue to develop Vietnam's military science and arts, make worthy contributions to building and step by step modernization of a regular revolutionary army, and defend and build the socialist Vietnam fatherland.

I wish you, comrades, plenty of health and many new achievements, and together with all party members, people and troops trust that you will turn the seventh party congress resolutions into realities in our beloved Vietnamese land.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations !
Vo Chi Cong

3d Military Region Units Greet Congress Success

BK1507125591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The party committee's standing committee and the headquarters of the 3d Military Region recently held a meeting to report the results of the seventh national party congress to the key cadres of the Armed Forces in the region. At the same time, the military region headquarters established a program of action for welcoming the fine success of the seventh party congress with a determination to turn the contents of the party resolutions into realities in everyday life.

The party organizations in the 3d Military Region recently made good preparations for the second round of party congresses at all levels and did a timely preliminary review of performances in the first half-year. They also discussed the implementation of tasks in the second half-year, focussing on the following main objectives: Good training, strict discipline, improvement of living conditions, and high combat readiness.

Units in the military region have maintained their equipment in good condition to ensure safety. The logistical department has met all the requirements of the military region by accelerating the movements to increase production and practice thrift, to quickly put thousands of hectares of land reclaimed from the sea into cultivation and effective use, and to give dikes good protection in the rainy and typhoon season.

Units of the B-95 and H-42 divisional groups, B-54 brigade, B-05 artillery group, L13 engineer group, B-63 Signal communication group, and the politico-military school have stepped up the first phase training with good results and have actively prepared for the second phase training with even better results and safety.

Fiji

Former Chief Rabuka Sworn In as Cabinet Minister

BK1607023291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Suva, July 16 (AFP)—Former army chief Major General Sitiveni Rabuka formally rejoined cabinet Tuesday after being sworn-in during a brief ceremony at Government House, a government statement said.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka, 41, will be co-deputy prime minister and home affairs minister with duties including national security, defence, public order and maritime surveillance.

The statement said the Fiji military forces were answerable to Maj. Gen. Rabuka.

The major general, who retains his rank despite being a civilian, and who led two military coups in 1987, quit the army on Monday after 23 years in the military.

His swearing-in by president and his paramount traditional chief, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, coincides with radio reports that Maj. Gen. Rabuka would probably initiate a government of national unity incorporating unions and opposition parties.

It follows his success in negotiating a peace accord Friday with hardline trade unions, threatening a national strike after implementing a sugar harvest boycott, and the government.

Deputy Prime Minister Josevata Kamikamica said while visiting Australia Monday that the major general was emerging as the favourite to succeed Ratu Mara when he retires as prime minister next year.

Following his setting up of an interim government in December 1987, Maj. Gen. Rabuka held the home affairs portfolio until January 1989, when he returned to the barracks as a full-time army commander.

New Zealand

Minister 'Angry' at Latest French Nuclear Test

BK1607043491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0427 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Wellington, July 16 (AFP)—France exploded a nuclear bomb at its Mururoa Atoll test site in French Polynesia early Tuesday, New Zealand's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) said in a statement.

They estimated the explosion, the sixth in the latest series this year, at around 35 kilotons.

The test drew an angry statement from Foreign Minister Don McKinnon who had previously been restrained in his criticism of the latest series of tests, which began May 8. There are usually six tests in a series.

"We are sick and tired of the French nuclear tests," he said.

The DSIR said in a statement the test at 6:10 A.M. New Zealand time (1810 GMT Monday) was registered on their seismological equipment at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands.

The latest series included a test with an estimated yield of 110 kilotons, one of the largest ever French tests, and one of less than half a kiloton.

The combined estimated yield of the six tests was put at 190 kilotons.

Mr. McKinnon said the tests showed how the French Government continued to misjudge the mood of the South Pacific.

He said the tests were coming at a time when the cold war had ended and the security situation in Europe had changed.

When the latest series started New Zealand stopped protesting after each test, preferring to protest at the commencement of each series.

Mr. McKinnon said this had been interpreted by some as a weakening of New Zealand opposition, but this was not the case.

"The procedure (of protesting) may have changed, but nothing other than a cessation of the tests will cause the New Zealand Government to change its policy of vocal opposition.